THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Tomorrow

The show man
Profile of Michael Grade, the outsider brought in to revitalize BBC 1

The music man
Neville Marriner celebrates 25 years of the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields

It's a funny life
Enoch Powell reviews a biography of Jacques Tait, creator of Monsieur Hulot

Naked act
Pub strippers find the back door into Equity

Northern touch
Report of the Wallabies' match against the North of England.

Portfolio

The *Times Portfolio* competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Miss Maria Vaz-Pinto of London and Mr Christopher White of Forest Row, Sussex each received £1,000. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Ex-chairman of BBC dies at 64



Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, who as George Howard, was chairman of the BBC from 1980 to 1983, died yesterday, aged 64. He had been ill for some time. Mr Stuart Young, his successor at the BBC yesterday paid tribute to him, saying that he was interested in every detail of broadcasting

Obituary, page 14

Ford talks fail

Talks aimed at settling the 13-day strike by 270 Ford women machinists broke down last night. The strike has led to the loss of 14,300 vehicles at a total showroom value of £85m.



Trial in public

Poland is to try in public the four Interior Ministry officers accused in connection, with the killing of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. Western correspondents will be allowed to attend

Right-wing win

Sir William Clark, chairman of the Tory finance committee throughout Mrs Thatcher's Prime Ministership, was reelected *last night.* Page 2

Secrets Act

Lord Scarman called last night in the annual Granada lecture for the Official Secrets Act to be repealed and replaced by a statute to protect what ought to be secret while ensuring a right of public access to other information

Leader page, 13
Letters: On student grants, from Prof R M S Smellie, and Dr I J Deary; effect of cuts, from Sir Geoffrey Jackson, and others
Leading articles: US budget; Genscher's Polish problem; regional aid policy
Features, pages 10-12
Call to link arms with France, the market forces behind famine; Bolton's musical legacy; Power politics from the pulpit; Divorce in Britain, part two
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Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, Mr Percy Norris
Classified, pages 22 to 26
La crème de la crème; property

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US officials propose 35% top tax rate

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration's *long-awaited plan to overhaul* and simplify the US tax system was unveiled yesterday and immediately ran into strong opposition from business groups which criticized it as unfair and detrimental to future growth.

Treasury officials have been working for more than a year on the proposal which calls for cuts in Amercia's top income tax rate to 35 per cent, while eliminating a maze of deductions and special interest tax allowances accumulated over decades.

The tax package is not intended to increase total revenue, because the President is committed by a pre-election

Leading article 13

pledge not to raise taxes. The President's "core group" of nine top budget advisers is still strugging over a massive programme of social spending cuts to reduce the $210 billion Federal deficit.

A cuts programme is to be presented to the President today but administration officials have been unable to agree during weeks of closed-door talks.

Before he left Washington last week for the Thanksgiving Day holiday, Mr Reagan stepped into the fray and delivered a new set of orders: domestic spending was to be cut even more sharply but tax increases and cuts in social security and defence spending were "off-limits".

President Reagan has made tax reforms a centrepiece of his campaign *to* "get government off the backs of the people" but the plan produced by the Treasury was criticized by White House officials even before it was formally unveiled yesterday. Generally, the plan helps individual taxpayers at the expense of corporations.

"This is a radical plan. It will alienate traditional Republican constituencies. It is not well designed to get a package out of the White House," a high-level official said. The tax plan is supported strongly by Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury secretary.

The plan proposed by the Treasury stops short of an across-the-board flat tax supported by conservative groups and calls instead for a modified flat tax which consolidates the present 15 individual tax brackets into three brackets of 15 per cents, 25 per cent and 35 per cent. *The current top rate is* 50 per cent.

In addition, the personal tax exemption and exemptions for dependants would nearly double to $2,000 overall. Treasury officials said the plan is designed to reduce average tax payments by 8.5 per cent.

But corporations, despite a reduction in the overall tax rate to 33 per cent from 46 per cent, would experience a higher rate of tax due to the elimination of special deductions and "tax breaks".

The two largest corportate tax breaks – the 10 per cent investment tax credit to offset the cost of plant and equipment, and the accelerated depreciation writeoffs on these investments which President *Reagan enacted in 1981* – would be eliminated and curtailed, respectively.

Together, these two programmes cost the goverment an estimated $50 billion a year in lost revenues.

The new goal of the coregroup was to cut the deficit in half to an estimated 100 billion by 1988 but this could only be

Continued on back page, col 3

Frontier to reopen in Gibraltar

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The 15-year siege of Gibraltar is to end early next year. Before February 15 the frontier is to be opened in return for an agreement reached yesterday in Brussels that Britain was prepared, for the first time, to discuss sovereignty of the colony, which was captured 280 years ago.

The agreement was described by Señor Fernando Morán, the Spanish Foreign Minister, as "the biggest diplomatic success for Spain over the Rock since 1713". That was when Gibraltar legally became British under the treaty of Utrecht.

But Señor Morán said he did not want to sound too triumphant, and Sir *Geoffrey* Howe, the Foreign Secretary, insisted in the final agreement *that* "the British Government will fully maintain its commitment to honour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar".

Sir Geoffrey said negotiations between Britain and Spain would cover a range of subjects, from economic and tourist to aviation and military matters.

Spain had asserted its claim *to* sovereignty, but meant to pursue it by peaceful means. It had guaranteed to respect the wishes and interests of the population.

Under the agreement neither side has undertaken to do anything which would not have been required from the moment Spain *joined the EEC. As a* member, Spain could not have kept the existing border controls, while Britain would have had to allow Spaniards the right of free movement

But as a sign of goodwill, the agreement will allow these rights to citizens of both Spain and Gibraltar from the day the border *is opened. Controls* on the type of worker allowed to find a job in Gibraltar, or on who could buy property in the colony would continue for a seven-year period after Spain joined the Community – the target date is still January 1, 1986 – but "each side will be favourably disposed to each other's citizens when granting work permits".

Sir Geoffrey underlined the importance of ending the quarrel. But Señor Morán said: "The end of the Gibraltar problem means the integration of Gibraltar into Spain and filling in Spanish sovereignty, with maximum respect for the *rights of Gibraltarians".*

One of the first fruits of the new-found cooperation between Britain and Spain is likely to be a treaty of extradition. The agreement also removes a further block in the negotiations for Spanish membership of the EEC.

One area where Sir Geoffrey *insisted there* was no possible link, precedent or connection was the Falklands. Historically, legally and geographically the case involving the islands was quite different, he said.

Full text of agreement, Page 6



Sir Joshua: In close touch on negotiations.



Mr Maurice de Souza, the dead man's driver, gives police his version of events at the site of the assassination in Bombay yesterday

Scargill absent from strike meeting with TUC chiefs

By David Felton
Labour Correspondent

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, failed to appear at a critical meeting in London last night between the TUC and *miners' leaders.*

Mr Scargill was said to be too busy at the union's Sheffield headquarters and regarded the meeting with the seven-man TUC team monitoring the nine-month dispute as routine.

His absence was seen as a snub to the senior union leaders who were supposed to be laying the ground for reopening of negotiations between the coal board and union.

Some right-wing union leaders have argued for a reconsideration of TUC support, or at the very least pressure to be brought on the NUM to modify its bargaining position on pit closures so that talks could be reopened.

Another view presented at the meeting, attended by Mr Michael McGahey and Mr Peter Heatfield respectively NUM vice president and general secretary, was that there should be an approach by the TUC to Mr Peter Walker, *Secretary of State for Energy,* to seek ways of breaking the impasse.

However, there were few signs that miners' leaders are willing to compromise on opposition to put closures or to agree to any negotiation with Mr Walker.

A union spokesman said last night that Mr Scargill had not attended the Congress House meeting because of a tight schedule and because he had returned late from a rally of striking miners in Nottinghamshire.

The TUC meeting was convened after colliery managers agreed a 5.2 per cent pay increase for 15,000 members over the next 12 months, the increase that was offered the NUM last November.

The return to work showed further signs of slowing down, with 350 going back yesterday, compared with 975 last Tuesday. The drift back to work is running at below half last week's record.

The 5.2 per cent pay deal agreed with the British Association of Colliery Management will set the pace for settlements in the mining industry and other public sector areas. Leaders of colliery deputies will be made the same offer *tomorrow.*

MacGregor visit, page 2
Parliament, page 4

Mr John Paul Getty II, aged 51, gave £100,000 yesterday to the Christmas appeal launched on Monday for families of *striking miners, enough to fill* stockings for 50,000 children or buy a dinner for almost 67,000. Mr Getty, who lives in Chelsea, London, paid a cheque through his accountants.

Academics question NCB accounting

Cortonwood colliery 'profitable'

By Ian Griffiths

Cortonwood Colliery, the pit whose *suggested* closure precipitated the miners' strike, could be classified as profitable, according to a study by five leading accountancy academics. Their research indicates that in *1981-82* the colliery would have produced a profit at the rate of £5.50 a ton *of* coal for the National Coal Board rather than the £6.20-a-ton loss suggested by the 1983 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the board.

The findings were due to be published in an article in the magazine *Accountancy* this week but it was withdrawn after the NCB *put pressure* on the leader of the research team, Professor David Cooper of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

After consultations with the NCB yesterday, Professor Cooper has now decided that the article should be published and it will appear unaltered in the magazine in January.

The article is critical of the *NCB's internal accounting* procedures, in particular the "F23" statement which is used by the board to monitor pit performance.

According to the academics, the F23 "does not provide a sensible basis for pit closure decisions or public debate on them". The article particularly questions *the coal board's use* of allocating fixed costs, incurred whether or not a pit is closed, and its use of applying notional penalties to pits which exceed their budgeted output allocation.

The academics claim that the NCB's accounting procedures tend to favour high performance pits which attract high investment and penalize the so-called low-performing collieries.

The NCB's attempts to prevent the article's publication angered *Accountancy*, the official journal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Last night the NCB issued a statement saying that there were inaccuracies and a misunderstanding of the board's *accounting procedures in the* article. It also said that the meeting between Mr Michael Butler, director-general (finance), and the authors to discuss amendments to the article was still scheduled to go ahead in December.

Rig airlift as storms hit north and west

Men were being evacuated from a North Sea *oil rig,* the Sovereign Explorer, last night after it went adrift in bad weather 50 miles north-east of Shetland. First reports said that it was under tow when the line parted.

All over Scotland, storms caused chaos to sea, road and air transport yesterday. Driving rain and winds of up to 80mph flooded roads, brought down power cables and caused earth slips that blocked railway lines.

Police warned motorists to stay away from *the* A74, the main road between Carlisle and Glasgow, where several high-sided lorries had been blown over.

Ferries were storm-bound on the Clyde and ferry services along the west coast severely disrupted. Sailings to the outer isles were cancelled. Speed limits were put on the Forth, Tay and Erskine road bridges.

The Central, Tayside and Strathclyde regions were worst affected by the high winds and floods.

Off Lowestoft, Suffolk, an RAF helicopter rescued five seamen after their coaster, the Lena Wessels, ran aground on sands in force eight gales with winds of up to 50 mph last night.

Of the Cornish coast, two fishermen were rescued by a Sea King helicopter from the Royal Navy air station at Culdrose after a lugger capsized in high seas near Falmouth.

India steps up security after envoy's murder

From Michael Hamlyn in Delhi and Richard Streeton in Bombay

India yesterday announced increased security precautions *for British offices* throughout the country after the assassination of a senior British diplomat in Bombay.

Police sealed the city by rail, road, air and sea to search for two "white men" reported to have been seen firing shots at the envoy.

The first cricket Test, which had been in question after the shooting, was confirmed last night and will begin in Bombay today, the England *manager* said.

The diplomat who died was Mr Percy Norris, aged 56, the Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, commercial capital of the country. He had been in his post since last month, and previously served in the Gulf state of Dubai.

He was being driven by Mr Maurice de Souza, an Indian employee of the Commission for 20 years, in his Rover, emblazoned with diplomatic number plates and flying the Union Jack.

The car travelled down Marine Drive and then up from the bay along Madame Cama *Road towards the Deputy High* Commission offices. A gardener tending flowers at a statue nearby described how the car slowed to turn left into Patel Marg when two men stepped towards it.

Mr Roy Carter, First Secretary at the comission, said three shots were fired, shattering the front and rear near side windows. One bullet whistled past Mr de Souza's face. The *others struck Mr Norris, one in* the temple and one in the heart. A policeman later recovered two spent 9mm cartridge cases from the road.

Until late last night, the gardener was being questioned by police. The attackers were apparently described as white, with one having long hippy-length hair. The other was said to have a sallow complexion.

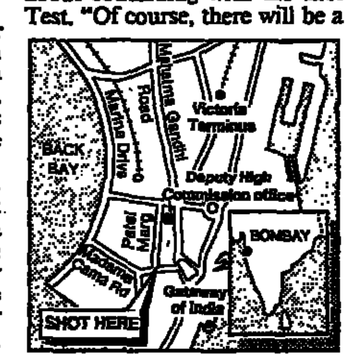
Mr de Souza speeded up and took Mr Norris to the Breach Candy hospital four miles away. He was rushed to the intensive care ward but died soon after. His wife, Angela, and his daughter, Madeleine, a 23-year-old stockbroker holidaying in India, were at his bedside. Mr Norris also leaves a son, aged 25.

A police spokesman quoting witnesses, said the two men had waited at the junction, standing under a tree for *15* minutes. An inspector at the scene said it was possible the assassins were from the IRA. Another theory was that they were connected with the envoy's stay in Dubai.

Recent attacks on diplomats in *India have all had links with* the Middle East.

On Monday evening, Mr Norris, his wife and daughter hosted a cocktail party in his flat for the visiting English cricket side. His hospitality was so much appreciated that the party lasted 90 minutes longer than scheduled and continued later in a hotel discotheque.

The cricketers were unhappy about continuing with the first Test. "Of course, there will be a



degree of apprehension for one or *two players,"* Mr *Tony* Brown, the manager, said, "but if there is a safe place in the world today, the middle of the Wankhede stadium must be as safe a place as anywhere."

Increased security was clamped on British offices and institutions yesterday. An extra patrol of armed police moved outside the *Delhi High* Commission and more guards were posted at the Deputy High *Commissions in Calcutta and* Madras, as well as Bombay. Three officers and 10 constables were patrolling the Taj Mahal hotel in Bombay, where the England team is staying.

The Indian Government yesterday said it was "deeply distressed at this tragic incident. We express our deep sympathy to the *British* Governmnt and the bereaved family".

● **BRUSSELS:** Sir Geoffrey *Howe, the Foreign* Secretary, said here that he had been deeply shocked to hear of the death (Ian Murray writes).

"It is an appalling crime and it illustrates very clearly the nature of the dangers people in the diplomatic service face, and lots of other people in public life, from terrorists around the world."

● A group calling itself The Revolutionary Organization of Socialist Muslems claimed responsibility for the killing in telephone messages to news *agencies in London and Paris.*

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Mr Norris: Hit in the temple and heart.

Whitehall site proposed for London heliport

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

A heliport only 400 yards from Westminster Abbey and the Houses of Parliament is being proposed by the helicopter industry as a replacement for central London's existing *public* heliport at Trig Lane near Cannon Street, *due to* close by 1986.

It would be on the north bank of the Thames outside the Ministry of Defence between Horse guards Avenue and Richmond Terrace, and *would* handle several thousand civil and military movements a year.

***Helicopter* interests say a replacement for Trig Lane, whose planning permission *expires* within 18 months, is urgently needed to cope with a predicted growth in London helicopter movements from *20,000 to 30,000* a year by 1990. But a heliport in so environmentally sensitive an area would meet with violent opposition, though members of the Government and military chiefs would doubtless welcome it.**

The site is one of five proposed by the British Helicopter Advisory Board, representing manufacturers and operators, as the central of three London heliports for the 1990's. The other four are near the Savoy Hotel at Temple, at the Billingsgate fish market site near London Bridge, and at Butlers Wharf and Hermitage Wharf near London Bridge.

Other proposed sites
TEMPLE
TRIG LANE (To close)
BILLINGSGATE
HERMITAGE WHARF
The Tower
Ministry of Defence
WHITEHALL (Proposed alternative)
BUTLERS WHARF
Houses of Parliament

The Whitehall site would serve primarily for local flights in southern England, and for connexions to longer flights from two larger heliports, at Battersea in the west and the *proposed Stolport in London's* docklands to the east.

Battersea is already London's main heliport with 12,000 flights a year.

Stolport is awaiting permission as a short take-off and landing airport from which the *promoters* are seeking to have helicopters banned to allay local environmental objections.

Eforts were being made to reduce helicopter nuisance with a new code of conduct for pilots.

Permission for the Whitehall heliport would rest with Westminster City Council. Mr Alan Bradley, chairman of Westminster's *planning committee,* said: "I find it difficult to believe we would be happy about it. We are already geting a lot of complaints about helicopter noise."

Cash shortage is blamed for falling off in science research

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

Britain's scientific research is falling dramatically behind that of other advanced countries because of inadequate funding, Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, chairman of the University Grants Committee, told MPs yesterday.

He gave a warning to the Commons Select Committee on Education and Science that cash shortages now meant "we cannot really go on trying to retain a presence in every field of science".

Sir Peter said: "The proportion of good research which this country does is governed by the proportion of world expenditure on research which is spent in this country. Most other advanced countries are actively increasing in real terms, the amount of money they are spending on scientific research, some of them by quite substantial percentages."

Even if Britain's funding of research managed to stay the same in real terms "other countries are racing ahead of us".

Since 1979 the money spent on scientific research in Britain's universities has declined in real terms every year. In 1985-6 spending would, for the first time, keep pace with inflation, but only after a special £26m top-up by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for education.

Sir Peter criticised the Treasury's "wildly optimistic" estimate of 3 per cent inflation for the next year, which determined the Government's increased funding to the UGC. "Nobody I have seen seriously considers inflation will be below 4 per cent. So the extra money being made available more or less balances the results of the way the Treasury does its arithmetic.

"We are, in effect, in the Red Queen's world, in this country. You have to run very fast to stay in the same place".

Teachers oppose VAT on books

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Six organizations representing more than 500,000 teachers yesterday signed a joint resolution to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, opposing the threatened VAT on books.

They complained that tax on books would lead to more bureaucracy, more expensive books and fewer children reading. Mr Warwick Hele, High Master of St Pauls Schools for Boys in London, representing the Secondary Heads Association, said it would have the disastrous effect of cutting children off from literary experience.

"This means they will have real difficulty with fluency and the use of their own language," he said. "Such a decline in the ability of children to communicate naturally and clearly will be very damaging to the future of the nation."

The resolution – signed by the National Union of Teachers, the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, the Secondary Heads Association and the National Association of Head Teachers – was delivered to Sir Keith yesterday. The organizations are also asking for an urgent meeting with Sir Keith.

Mr Alan Evans, head of the NUT's education department said: "This is a tax on knowledge and on learning. We should remember the Victorian entrepreneurs. They would certainly not have taxed knowledge."

Scheme for the young looks to its image

By Richard Dowden

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme is trying to change its image.

Mr David Davis, chairman of Edelmans public relations company, who works for the scheme in a voluntary capacity, has told the scheme's organizers that it appears to be too middle class and elitist.

Some 200 people at seminars in a London hotel will spend today working out ways of bringing it to a wider public.

Commander David Cobb, the deputy director, said the scheme was not being questioned, simply its image, and how to find more young people and provide them with the facilities for competing in it.

Since it was launched in 1956 more than two million young people, aged between 14 and 23, have taken part from 43 countries, aiming to win an award and physical recreation.

The Duke of Edinburgh said at a press conference yesterday that more resources and effort were now going into inner cities than rural areas.

Earlier the Duke told the organizing council that the change in the demographic pattern due to the lower birthrate now affected all schools and youth organizations, and that many people were anxious and uncertain.

"At the same time economic forces are making things particularly difficult for young people. Against this background I believe that we need to make a very special effor to make it possible for more young people to take advantage of the opportunities for individual development offered by the Award Scheme."

Escape break at police college

Christopher Drouet, aged 35, serving a 33-month sentence for theft at Colbingley prison, Surrey, yesterday absconded from a working party doing gardening at the Bramshill Police College, in Hampshire.

A spokesman for the Prison Service said that Drouet had been sentenced at the South-Western Crown Court but was not classed as a dangerous prisoner. The college said that security was very strict.



Liberal approach: Mr Tim Slack (left) and his wife, Kate, meeting Mr Peter Oakley, a greengrocer, yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos)

Liberals to campaign for compassion

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

The Liberal by-election machine, which has helped Liberal and Social Democrat candidates to notable victories and frightened the defending party in several safe-looking seats, set up shop yesterday in Enfield Southgate and claimed it would win.

Against it is the shortness of the campaign, with polling day two weeks away tomorrow and that Southgate has always returned Conservatives. But in these volatile days there is nothing insuperable about the Conservative majority of 15,819, or 34.7 per cent. The Conservatives were wise to hold the by-election at the earliest reasonable time after the death of Sir Anthony Berry, in the Brighton bombing.

They were gently chided, however, by both their principal opponents in their opening press conferences yesterday. Mr Peter Hamid, Labour candidate, thought there had been undue haste.

With an eloquence which might have had Mrs Margaret Thatcher cheering him, Mr Hamid trusted that they would fight a dignified campaign, "dignified in so campaigning as to prove to terrorists that they cannot intimidate us. We will be engaged in the democratic process, and they will not bomb the democratic process out of existence."

But they would put, Mr Hamid said, the issues of cuts, student grants and hospital closures, which affected electors' daily lives National policies hit Southgate people hard, he said. The council had large sums of money from council house sales which it intended to use to rehabilitate its housing, but the Government had put constraints on its use.

Local people had wanted to use the proceeds of sale of a local hospital to improve other hospital facilities, but had been told they could use less than half.

Mr Hamid starts in third place, so the supporters of the Liberal, Mr Tim Slack, were naturally making the claim yesterday, which has served them well in the past, that he was the only real challenger to the Conservative, Mr Michael Portillo.

Mr Slack, who was adopted late on Monday, was introduced proudly by his agent yesterday as "one of the best on the party's candidates' list". He is no more local than Mr Portillo. Mr Hamid has the edge there, but he has experience and did outstandingly well when he last fought for a parliamentary seat, in the safe Tory pastures of Petersfield in 1974.

He is a former headmaster of Bedales School, and before that of a school in Burma sponsored by the British Council.

Mr Slack, who is 56, said that he would put the economy and unemployment first in his campaign for "compassion linked with efficiency".

He wanted to attack "the myth of housewife economics" which held that the national budget should be run like a family budget; and to promote the consistent Alliance policy of investing in the infrastructure to bring immediate relief of unemployment in the construction industry.

General election result: Sir Anthony Berry (C) 26,451; David Morgan (L/All) 10,652; Mary Honeyball (Lab) 8,132; M. Braithwaite (BNP) 318. C majority, 15,799.

The miners' strike

MacGregor in visit to beaten pitman

From Peter Davenport, Pontefract

The chairman of the National Coal Board, Mr Ian MacGregor, made an unexected visit yesterday to the hospital bedside of Mr Michael Fletcher, the injured working miner.

As he spoke to Mr Fletcher at Pontefract General Hospital, a few hundred yards away at the town's magistrates' court the president of the NUM branch at the local pit was appearing on charges related to the attack.

Mr Roy Wright, aged 55, the Fryston colliery union branch president and NUM welfare officer for the North Yorkshire area, was one of seven miners who appeared before magistrates in connection with there attack on Mr Fletcher in his home at Kirkdale, Airedale, near Castleford, on Friday.

He was assaulted as he tried to go to work for the fifth day after abandoning the strike. He suffered broken bones, severe bruising and cuts.

Mr Wright, branch president for 18 years at Mr Fletcher's colliery, was remanded in custody for a week accused of unlawfully causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Fletcher on the basis of incitement, aiding and abetting.

Mr Wright's solicitor, Mr Alan Craig, had sought bail.

Four other miners from the Castleford area who faced charges in connexion with the attack were remanded in custody, and two others were given bail. On Tuesday 11 other miners appeared in connexion with the attack, and all 18 will appear again on December 3.

As the court was sitting, Mr MacGregor and Mr Fletcher were talking in hospital. The NCB chairman, whose visit was described as a "personal decision", brought a present of two autographed books on mining.

Later Mr Fletcher said: "It was a wonderful surprise and Mr MacGregor gave me lots of reassurance, which I needed. He told me there would definitely be a job for me with the coal board whenever I was ready to return to work.

"He said that if I needed to move away from the area I could do so. But I don't think I will need to do that. He wished me a speedy recovery, and asked about the attack.

"He gave me two signed books on mining, which not many people can have. I will keep them and pass them on to my family".

Mr MacGregor's visit further strengthened Mr Fletcher's resolve to return to work at Fryston colliery

All North-west pits are working

By Staff Reporters

The last pit in the National Coal Board's western area to stand idle because of the coal strike resumed production yesterday.

As 200 tons of coal from the Higher Florida seam of Sutton Manor colliery near St Helens in Lancashire were brought to the surface the board announced a big investment programme for the pit.

During the next three years it will spend £17.4m, the largest investment ever in a single Lancashire pit.

● A GLC report refers to the Metropolitan Police as acquiring "a universally bad reputation" in the miners' dispute. It reports comments such as "they're just a load of animals in uniform."

The report is by Mr Martin Ennals, head of the police committee support unit and forms an appendix to a police committee report presented to the full council meeting last night.

It expressed grave concern "at the continuing use of paramilitary units and the increased tactics of confrontation being used by the police".

Mr Paul Rossi, Alliance spokesman on the police committee, called it a "one-sided piece of police-bashing".

● Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, said in Corby, Northamptonshire, yesterday that there was no point in resuming negotiations with Mr Arthur Scargill.

"There is no point in having negotiations with someone whose main boast is that he is not going to move an inch. If there was a secret ballot then we would have all the miners back at work next week", he said.

● Church leaders who speak out on the miners' dispute have been defended by the general secretary of the British Council of Churches.

The Rev Dr Philip Morgan, moderator of the United Reformed Church, told the council assembly in London yesterday: "It is, I think, a matter of great encouragement that in such a frightening situation positions should have been taken, and voices raised within the churches."

● Intimidation of working miners in their homes and through their families was probably the most despicable form of attack possible, Mr Charles McLauglan, Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, said on BBC radio yesterday.

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Thatcher rejects 'worthless' missile offer

By Philip Webster
Political Reporter

President Chernenko's promise to Mr Neil Kinnock that Russia would not make Britain a target if a Labour government stripped the country of its nuclear defences was rejected as worthless by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, yesterday.

During Commons questions she agreed with Mr William Walker, the Conservative MP for Tayside North, who said it was naive to imagine that because someone said that missiles were not directed on you they could not be redirected at short notice.

Mr Joe Ashton, Labour MP for Bassetshaw, was jeered by Conservative MPs when he asked when Mrs Thatcher had last visited Moscow and negotiated a nuclear arms reduction.

Earlier Mrs Thatcher said that the Soviet Union had be brought back to the negotiating table in the disarmament talks by Nato's firmness in implementing its dual track decision.

When the previous Labour leader, Mr Michael Foot, visited Moscow in 1981 he claimed his meeting with President Brezhnev had brought "a major break-*through*", with the Russians spelling out in detail their readiness to withdraw missiles from western Russia in return for the non-deployment of new Nato missiles in Europe. Subsequently, commentators suggested there had been no real breakthrough.

● MOSCOW: Mr Kinnock and Mr Denis Healey left Moscow last night after a week of talks "firmly convinced" by the Soviet promises on missiles, despite the difficulty of verifying Soviet undertakings (Richard Owen writes).

The account in *Pravda* yesterday of their meeting on Monday with President Chernenko said the Soviet leader had agreed to "reduce and physically destroy" Soviet medium-range missiles stationed in European Russia equivalent to the number of nuclear missiles, British and American, eliminated by a Labour government.

If Britain disarmed completely, in accordance with Labour's defence policy, "Soviet nuclear weapons will not be trained on Britain at all" Mr Chernenko declared.

He added, however, that Soviet missiles stationed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia would remain in place, as they were a response to American deployments in Western Europe

At a final press conference yesterday Mr Kinnock said cruise missiles withdrawn from Britain could be redeployed elsewhere, so that it was natural for the Russians to keep missiles in Eastern Europe.

New magazine wins award

Microscope, a fortnightly magazine for the microcomputer industry, has won the Computer Journal of the Year category in the UK Computer Press Awards. The new awards, sponsored by _The Times_ and Hewlett Packard, are the first to be made for this section of the specialist press.

Winners in other categories, announced by Jan Leeming at a Claridges dinner last night, included Lisa Israel, of _Computer News_ magazine, for news writing, Caroline Berman, of _Computing_, for features, _PC Magazine_, for design, and a freelance photographer, Paul Crowe.

Leftist threat to Kinnock

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

A handful of left-wing Labour MPs has begun to toy with the idea of challenging the leadership of Mr Neil Kinnock at the next year's party conference.

One member of the Campaign Group of Commons activities said yesterday that the impetus had come from constituency parties and rank-and-file party members distressed and dismayed by Mr Kinnock's ambivalent attitude to the miner's strike. As there are more than 140,000 miners, he said, it was entirely possible that strikers and their families could account for 20 per cent of Labour Party membership, and that Labour sympathy for the strikers' cause spread far beyond the coalfields.

Mr Kinnock had refused to accept the invitation of the President of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mr Arthur Scargill to attend NUM rallies, and had even spoken of the possibility of defeat for the strikers.

The clear rift between Labour leadership and party members had provoked a reaction against Mr Kinnock, the Campaign Groip spokesman said. "If he were the general secretary of a trade union, he would be in real trouble."

When it caomes to specifics, however the party left recognizes that it lacks candidates for an alternative leader.

It is accepted that Mr Tony Benn might no longer have the energy for another leadership contest, and that Mr Michael Meacher, Labour spokesman for social services, suffers from pangs of front-bench loyalty.

It is also accepted that the miners' strike should be long-dead by the time of the next party conference, and that time may heal some of the present wounds.

But the talk of a challenge runs deeper than the miners' strike. For the first time since Mr Kinnock was elected leader, one well-placed left-wing source said yesterday that the party leaderschip in fact now rested with his deputy, Mr Roy Hattersley, *and his centre-right* alliance.

Mr Hattersley's supporters dominated the Shadow Cabinet, the national executive committee and the parliamentary party, and were increasingly dictating policy and even the terms of Mr Kinnock's leadership.

It is felt that Mr Hattersley and his friends will bid their time, but if Mr Kinnock tries to act independently or if he has failed to win electoral success by 1987, then there could be an attempt at a right-wing coup.

By putting forward new idea of their own challenge, the left wishes to give warning that party activists will concede no compromise in the struggle for a left-wing manifesto and a leadership committed to its implementation.

Tory right win two vital backbench posts

By Our Political Reporter

The Conservative right triumphed at Westminster last night by holding off strong challenges from the left for two of the party's most important backbench posts.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South) was reelected chairman of the powerful finance committee, a position he had held since 1979, be defeating Mr Nigel Forman, (Carlshalton and Wellington), in one of the most strongly-contested elections

Mr Michael Grylls, (Surrey North-west) retained the chairmanship of the trade and industry committee

With the victory last week of Mr Ralph Howell over Mr Jim Lester in the contest for the employment committee chairmanship, the right has kept control of the three main backbench economic committees.

Masonic hospital 'at risk'

By Nicholas Timmins
Local Government Correspondent

The Royal Masonic Hospital and a National Health Service nursing school aare at risk after rejection by the hospitals' governers of a £20.2m rescue bid by American Medical International.

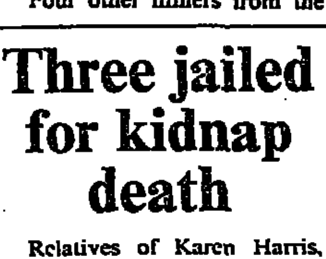
Mr Tony Prescott, chief executive of the 252-bed hospital, said it and the school were in danger of closing in three months unless donation from Freemasons flowed in very quickly. The hospital runs a school for 3000 nurses with the Roehampton health authority. The cost is shared.

The Royal Masonic, the largest independent acute hospital in Britain, chirfly treats patients from the 600,000-strong Freemasons movement. Since 1973 it has taken non-Masons as paying patients. But for 10 of the past 14 years it has made a loss, which in the year to June was £387,000. This year's deficit is £140,000.

Of the hospital's £7.1m turnover, £4m comes from paying patients and payments by Masons according to means. The remaining £3m has to be covered by donations from the movement.

Under the AMI deal, £19m would have gone into a charitable trust to subsidize private hospital treatment for Masons at the Royal Masonic and other private hospitals.

AMI and the hospital would have to put £1.2m each into a trust fund to run the nurses' school, with AMI topping up the running expenses.



Three jailed for kidnap death

Relatives of Karen Harris, aged 15, who was kidnapped to be forced into prosutution, cheered yesterday as two prostitutes and their pimp were sentenced at Birmingham Crown Court after being found guilty of manslaughter. They had all denied the charge.

The pimp was sentenced to 10 years' jail and the prostitutes to eight years' youth custody each.

The girl fell 200 feet to her death last March from a nineteenth-floor flat where she had been locked up. She had fought Caroline Middleton, one of the prostitutes, who had been left in charge of her. The girl had been given leave from Greencroft Children's Home, Bilston, Wolverhampton, at the time of the kidnap, but was working as a prostitute in Birmingham. An inquiry is being held at the home.

Menvil Dowell, aged 36, of Highgate, Birmingham; Deirdre Finnegan, aged 20, Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham; and Caroline Middleton, aged 19, of Eve Hill, Dudley, West Midlands, were all found guilty of manslaughter. The two women admitted abduction. Dowell denied abduction but was found guilty. He was sentenced to eight years' jail for abduction and 10 years for manslaughter. The sentences will run concurrently. The two women were each sentenced to six years' youth custody for abduction and eight years for manslaughter. Their sentences will run concurrently.



OBE for record holder

Honoured: Richard Noble, the holder of the land speed record, and his wife Sally and daughters Miranda, aged five, and Genevieve, aged three, leaving their home yesterday for Buckingham Palace, where he received the OBE.

It took Mr Noble, aged 37, a businessman from Twickenham, London, nine years to reach a speed of 633.4468 mph in four-ton, jet-powered car.

Yesterday the Queen asked him if he was going to continue

"I said we were waiting for the Americans to make a challenge," he said. That would involve cars with a speed faster than sound in the region of 700 or 800 mph.

Meanwhile, Mr Noble has started a commercial company developing a new British single-engine aircraft.

Johnny Morris, _the broadcaster_, also received the insignia of the OBE, yesterday.

Sale room

Telephone bid of £64,000 for missal stand

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A *Japanese lacquer missal* stand which had been bought on the Continent earlier this year for about £500 was sold at Christie's yesterday for £64,800, to a private collector bidding over the telephone.

It is one of the very rare mementos of the highly-successful missionary work of Jesuits in Japan in the last decades of the sixteenth century which ended dramatically in about 1600 with an anti-Christian edict and the crucifixion of both missionaries and local Christians.

Japanese craftsmen faithfully copied European religious paintings and church furnishings, producing a fascinating *mix of Eastern and Western* art. The folding missal stand is of European design and is decorated with the device of the Society of Jesus, IHS, in the middle of a sunburst, but it used gold *hiramakie* and an inlay of *aogai* on a black lacquer ground to produce a superbly rich Eastern effect. The clever purchaser had bought it because he remembered a very similar missal stand sold for £32,400 at Christie's last year.

After the Jesuits came the Dutch traders and Christie's sale also included a late seventeenth century Imari porcelain figure of a roistering Dutchman astride a barrel of Dutch gin at £18,360

How 'footprint' two died

The "footprints in blood" murder trial at the Central Criminal Court, was told yesterday of the last moments of Michelle Sadler and Robert Vaughan.

Miss Sadler had a paper gag pushed down her throat and a wire ligature tightened round her neck, Professor Keith Mant, pathologist, said.

Mr Vaughan had been twice slashed in the throat with a Stanley-type knife. The first cut sliced into muscle and did not kill him. So the killer tried *again, this time going through* the voice box and severing an artery.

David Carty, aged 18, of Linsey Street, Rotherhite, East London, denies murdering the couple, both aged 17, on February 4

The jury has been told that Mr Carty's trainer shoes matched footprints in blood found in the corridor of the basement.

The trial continues today.

The Times overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29; Belgium B frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 170; Cyprus 700 mils; Denmark Dkr 8.50; Finland Mkk 8.00; France Frs 7.00; Germany DM 3.50; Greece Dr 160; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2200; Luxembourg Lf 38; Madeira Esc 125; Morocco Dir 9.00; Norway Kr 8.50; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 125; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 170; Sweden Skr 8.50; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 0.700; USA $1.75; Yugoslavia Din 150

BBC anger at suggestion that public prefers TV adverts to dearer licence

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC was angered by a *new opinion poll last night* which was claimed to show that the public overwhelmingly prefers limited advertising on the BBC to an increase in the present £46 colour television licence fee.

The advertising agency, D'Arcy MacManus Masius, which commissioned the survey from NOP Market Research, *said that 77 per cent of the* 1,879 people interviewed agreed to pegging the licence in return for one advertisement an hour being shown. Only 18 per cent agreed with an alternative option to increase the licence fee to £60 without advertisements.

The BBC, which has asked for a new licence fee of about £67, refused to comment on the poll, but a senior corporation executive rejected the agency's interpretation, and *pointed* out that people answering the poll had been told that both questions assumed that the quality of programmes would not be affected by either option.

"Our whole case against *advertising is based on the idea* that *it* would lead to a deterioration in programme standards, so the idea doesn't really make sense", the executive commented.

The corporation was pleased by one aspect of the poll; 50 per cent of those interviewed would be unhappy about the introduction of advertising.

Mr Rodney Harris, the agency's media director, said that this was not an outright rejection of advertising. "People *feel initially that because the* BBC has been non-commercial for all these years it ought to stay like that. When it comes down to the real crunch question of whether they want to pay more money or have advertising, then it is clear they would like advertising."

Masius launched a campaign to persuade the Government to *introduce a limited amount of* advertising earlier this year. The BBC has steadfastly rejected the idea, claiming that it would force both it and ITV downmarket.

But Mr Harris said that the survey showed that 56 per cent of people did not think programmes would suffer from the move.

Mr Harris said that the BBC's concern about a ratings war along American lines was irrelevant, because the American analogy did not apply here. "What is more relevant is *Jeremy* Isaacs's *Channel* 4, providing minority audiences with high quality programmes. He does not go for high ratings, yet despite the Equity dispute he has been very successful in attracting advertisers. The BBC is crying wolf."

The following were among the questions asked. The figure after each answer is a percentage, including multiple answers.

Which services does money raised by the TV licence fees support? BBC television, 36; BBC TV and radio and ITV, 9; BBC TV and radio, 47; Don't know, 9.

From which of these sources *does ITV obtain funding?* TV licence fee, 7; Money from advertising, 88; Government grants, 3; Other, 1; Don't know, 7.

I would be unhappy about advertising on BBC TV Agree *strongly*, 27; Agree, 23; *Disagree*, 32; Disagree strongly, 15; Don't know, 4.

Would the quality of BBC TV suffer from ads? Agree strongly, 14; Agree, 23; Disagree, 42; Disagree strongly, 14; Don't know, 6.

The current cost of a colour TV licence is £46. Assuming you had to obtain one which of these options *would* you prefer, assuming the quality of programmes is not altered? TV licence fee at £46 *plus* one ad per hour on BBC, 77; TV licence fee at £60 and no ads on BBC, 18; Don't know, 5.

Speaking clock to alter tone



Time for a change: *Miss Pat* Simmonds (right) the precise voice behind the telephone "speaking clock" since 1963, is *to* be retired some time in the spring.

A successor to Miss Simmonds, a retired supervisor who replaced Miss Ethel Cain (far right), will be announced next Wednesday from the 12 British Telecom employees (above) displayed to the media yesterday.

Mr Brian Cobby, the only man, who is acting night supervisor at Withdean, East Sussex, emerged *as* favourite with his timely rendering of: "At the third stroke it will be nine fifty-nine and 20 seconds."

The first speaking clock was introduced in July 1936 in London. (Group photograph: Harry Kerr).





Government backs Bill against kerb crawling

The Government is backing a private member's Bill to be introduced this session which will create three new criminal offences, aimed at tackling the nuisance of kerb-crawling.

Miss Janet Fookes, Conservative MP for Plymouth, Drake, who has drawn second place in the private member's ballot, is to introduce a Bill on kerb-crawling along the lines of the recent report by the Criminal Law Revision Com*mittee*.

That committee, under Lord Justice Lawton, called for three new criminal offences to deter men from accosting women, whether from a car or on foot, with possible fines of up to £2,000.

It would be illegal for a man to use a vehicle in a street or public place to solicit a woman for prositution; to solicit persistently a woman in such circumstances and for a man to solicit a woman for sexual purposes "in a manner likely to put her in fear."

The first two offences would have possible maximum fines of £400; and the third a possible maximum fine of £2,000.

Miss Fookes said she had been "swamped" with requests to introduce a Bill, on some 40 different subjects, but had chosen kerb-crawling for several reasons.

"The first, and most important, is that there are, in some towns, virtual no-go areas where women fear to go."

Sales boost in personal computer market

There will be more than 11 million personal computers in Europe by the end of the decade, according to a newly published survey highlighting the market growth in Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Holland, Belgium and Switzerland.

The survey, conducted by the Paris-based market research group, Intelligent Electronics Europe, focuses on the sales of computers which sell for more than $1,000.

According to the study: "The European personal computer market is just entering a period of dramatic growth which should be sustained until well into the 1990s. Personal computers have now begun to penetrate the large companies in most of the countries and the penetration rate is likely to *continue*."

● More than a quarter of the Sinclair Spectrums sold through main high street outlets in the six months before October were returned largely because of product faults, a report published by market researchers Business Decisions claims.

The study conducted for Venture UK, among 100 retailers, showed that Commodore had also a poor failure rate with 18 per cent of its Vic 20s and 13 per cent *of* the Commodore 64s being returned.

Sinclair claims that its return figures are substantially lower than those revealed by the survey.

Holiday failure safeguard

Barclaycard yesterday revealed a new insurance scheme *under which holiday makers* who have paid for their h..iday through the company are guaranteed compensation if the tour operator's business collapses.

The scheme is underwritten by Lloyd's of London, the main London insurance market, and will cover holidays paid for after November 20, 1984.

Since Laker Air Travel collapsed two years ago, the credit card companies, the Association of British Travel Agents and the Air Travel Reserve Fund, have been arguing about who should reimburse the victims of holiday company bankruptcies. Barclaycard, for example, paid out £150,000 to Laker victims but did not admit any *legal* obligation to do so

Barclaycard's new scheme *now breaks the deadlock* by guaranteeing compensation to its clients on a formal basis. It covers payments to tour operators, but not to travel agents or airlines.

Access, the other main credit card company, is expected to follow suit within days.

About £80m worth of holidays *have been paid for* with Barclaycards through more than 600 tour operators this year. About 20 per cent of all holidays were booked by credit card.

Prince's jobs idea takes off

A *backyard business venture* initiated by the Prince of Wales is being used to promote a competition aimed at creating non-farming jobs in rural areas.

It was the Prince's idea to convert derelict farm buildings on his Street Farm at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, into five modern "small workshop *units*" to help the setting up of small businesses on Duchy of Cornwall land.

A publicity brochure for the 1985 Rural Employment Awards shows "before" and "after" photographs of the conversion project. The competition, with its £1,000 prize, is sponsored by the Country Landowner's Association and *the Council for Small Industries* in Rural Areas.

Average mortgage under £22,000

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The average mortgage for house and flat buyers in greater London and its computer belt this year is nearly £27,000, compared with just under £22,000 for the United Kingdom, according to a survey published yesterday by Nationwide Building Society.

In Greater London the average price of property purchased is £41,282 and in the London commuter belt £45,398, compared with the UK average of £34,257.

The survey, *Lending in the Major Conurbations*, based on mortgages granted by the society during the first nine months of the year, covers: the two London areas; Lothian/-Strathclyde; Belfast; West Midlands; Merseyside/Greater Manchester; South Wales; South and West Yorkshire, and the North-east.

More than half the homebuyers in Greater London, Lothian/Strathclyde and Belfast were first-time buyers, *while in* the London commuter belt 34.8 per cent were first-time buyers. In Greater London 16.1 per cent rented privately before buying, almost twice as high a proportion as in any of the other eight conurbations.

Over the whole UK, about 20 in 100 buyers had been living *with family or friends, ranging* from 17.6 per cent in the London commuter belt and 23.7 per cent in Greater London to 26.5 per cent in Merseyside/Greater Manchester and 38.2 per cent in Belfast.

Former local authority tenants provided 21.6 per cent of first-time buyers in Lothian/ Strathclyde and 16.5 per cent in Belfast, compared with 7.8 per cent in South Wales and 7.2 per cent in the London commuter belt.

Employment status differed markedly among the borrowers, professions and managers totalled 39.1 per cent in the London commuter belt and 35.9 per cent in Greater London and 10.9 per cent in Belfast. Skilled manual workers were the *largest group in Lothian/-* Strathclyde, Belfast, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, South and West Yorkshire and the North-east.

Th percentage of single borrowers in Greater London was 42.2 per cent, compared with 20.1 per cent in Lothian/ Strathclyde and a national average of 28.1 per cent.

● The cost of rebuilding a house or bungalow increased by 5.1 per cent during the year to September, 1984, the British Insurance Association said

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' figures show that a house which would have cost £50,000 to rebuild in September 1983, would cost £52,500 by September.

Depending on the house's size and age, and the area, *rebuilding costs £30 to £51.50* per square foot of the outside floor area.

Leaflet available by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: Leaflets (H), Aldermary House, Queen Street, London EC4N 1TU.

Charitable gambler avoids jail

A professional gambler paid Ir£10,000 (£8,300) yesterday to *avoid spending Christmas* in jail.

Barney Curley, aged 43, was appealing at Mullingar Circuit Court in co Westmeath against a three-month prison sentence imposed earlier this year for running an *illegal lottery*. A lower court had ruled that he broke the law when he raffled his £1.5m Irish home.

Yesterday Judge O'Malley removed the sentence and applied the Probation Act instead. He said no conviction woulbe recorded if Curley agreed to pay £5,000 to a *Roman Catholic* Charity, the Society of St Vincent de Paul, to distribute among the poor at Christmas. Curley immediately offered to double the figure.

Motoring fine for Marilyn

Marilyn, the pop singer, was fined £30 at Highbury Magistrates' Court yesterday after he admitted driving through a red traffic light in Camden Town, north London, in August and £20 for failing to produce his driving licence and insurance.

Marilyn, aged 22, who was wearing a long brown coat, blue jeans, check shirt, with his hair tied with a pink ribbon, said afterwards: "I enjoyed that, it was quite a funny, interesting experience."

Sangster break

Mrs Robert Sangster, wife of the millionaire racehorse owner, said yesterday that she had "reluctantly decided to seek either a *judicial separation or a* divorce". She added: "I am deeply upset. I have no further comment to make."

Champion video

The adventure film *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, which broke all cinema box office records, has won the Golden Cassette award *for the most* rented video film of the year.

Divided train

British Rail yesterday began investigating a coupling failure that split the Glasgow to Euston Inter-City train at Brinklow, Warwickshire, on Monday leaving seven carriages stranded.

Church worker lived like St Francis of Assisi

The Methodist Church has been ordered to pay compensation for unfair dismissal of an employee who imitated St *Francis of Assisi* and *lived out* in the woods caring for trees and talking to his animals.

Mr John Robinson, aged 27, an agricultural expert, told an industrial tribunal in Birmingham that he had worked, most *of the time for a wage of* £20 a week, for four years as warden of the 22-acre church-owned Peck Wood, Rowney Green, Worcestershire.

He said he followed the ideas of St Francis, and had looked after the *woodland*, cared for animals, including domestic goats, *hens and ducks*, and had helped the church to build up a holiday centre for deprived children who came to stay in minimal accommodation in woodland huts. He said that he had been given a caravan to live in *which* the *organizing committee* had bought from one of its members for £100,

Mr Robinson, who had received recent rises bringing his wage up to £80 a week, could receive up to £3,000 in compensation when negotiations are completed. That would be in addition to a £400 *ex gratia* payment.

Lead pollution in school play yards

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Excessive concentrations of lead have been found in 15 streets and 50 school playgrounds in London in measurements of dust *and air*. The "hot-spots" were discovered in an assessment of lead pollution from traffic emissions; newspaper printing; and external redecoration of schools.

The analyses, by the scientific services branch of the Greater London Council show that Fleet Street has one of the highest lead contamination levels in London. The cause is attributed more to lead in dust being inadvertently taken out from newspaper *printworks* than to the contribution from vehicles.

Talks have begun between the newspaper industry, *local* authorities, the Health and Safety Executive and the GLC *to* reduce sources of lead discharges.

Other sites for roadside measurements on busy routes were in *the City and the* boroughs of Brent, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, Islington, Lambeth, Newham, Southwark, Tower Hamlets; and at Westminster and Kingston.

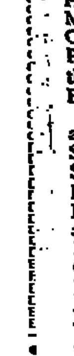
Of 15 locations, *three* had levels above recommended limits for concentrations in air, *with the* highest in Talgarth Road, Hammersmith.

All locations exceeded the recommended level when concentrations in the air in the dust were taken together.

The recommended figure for air is two micrograms per cubic metre; *for dust 5,000 parts per* million (ppm) and together one microgram per cu m air, measured as a three-monthly average figure, and 500 ppm dust.

Hot-spot survey results: first-figure in micrograms of lead per cubic metre of air; second is parts of lead per million of dust.
Archway Rd, Haringey 1.3, 1,670
Clarence St Kingston 1.7, 2,890
East I Dock Rd Tower Hamlets 1.5, 1,430
Elephant & Castle Southwark 0.8, 1,360
Fleet St City of London 1.8, 5,180
High St Greenwich 2.0, 2,440
High St North Newham 1.7, 1,840
High St Wandsworth 1.3, 2,490
Holloway Rd Islington 1.9, 3,240
Malden Way Kingston 2.1, 2,460
North Circular Rd Brent 1.4, 2,300
Orchard St Westminster 1.2, 3,340
Talgarth Rd Hammersmith 3.9, 3,380
Westway Westminster 1.2, 3,400
York Rd Lambeth 1.6, 2,600

PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 27 1984 Bombay murder condemned ● Blood screening ● Televising debates



NUM leadership could put an end to violence

COAL DISPUTE

Violence in the mining dispute could be stopped by the leadership of the NUM if it chose to do so, Mrs Margartet Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questioning.

In the exchanges, Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C) asked: Will the Prime Minister accept congratulations from her colleagues for the perceptive analysis she made last night of the dangers facing democracy in this country. (Labour protests)

When she returns to her theme of the Fascist left, will she point out the intimidation of miners, their wives adn their children, has seen no equall since Oswald Mosely and his blackshirts brought fear to the Jews.

Mrs Thatcher: The intimidation and violence we have seen is a blot on the face of Britain and has done our reputation untold damage abroad, and our trade untold *damage. (Interruptions)* I sometimes wonder whether that is the object of the Labour Party.

Mr Alan Howarth Stratford-on-Avon, C) said earlier: The miners of Yorkshire are returning to work because, in their own words, they are ashamed of intimidation and sickened by violence.

That unequivocal condemnation of violence should be endorsed by every MP. The refusal by the President of the NUM, Mr Arthur Scargill, to call off the violence *indicates* the unscrupulous means that the left are willing to use to get their own way.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes. Even if the violence were condemned by every member of the NUM and every member of the TUC, the acid test is whether the violence will stop. I believe it could be stopped by the leadership of the NUM if they choose to do so. The acid test again *is whether the guidelines of the* TUC will be followed.

Mr Allen McKay (Barnsley, West and Penistone, Lab): Her utterances and those of other Conservative ministers and MPs on this most *damaging dispute* are, *to say the least, less helpful than they could be.*



McKay: Bring people to negotiating table

Instead of dividing and being divisive she should use her power and influence to bring people to the negotiating table and, in the interests of the mining communities, she should set in motion a public inquiry into picket line events.

Mrs Thatcher: I probably care more about the future of the coal industry than many Labour MPs.

There are good jobs available for miners if they wish to return to work. It is the leadership of the NUM which, without consulting *them, is deliberately making them* suffer privation and some suffer violence and intimidation which has totally and utterly split the NUM.

That is the fault of the leadership *of the NUM.*

Tory protest at extra cash for mines

COAL GRANT

A small group of Conservative MPs staged a revolt in the Commons early on Tuesday morning when the Government moved an order to enable the £1,200m limit imposed by the 1983 Coal Industry Act on deficit grant paid to the NCB in the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 to be increased to £2,000m. The order was approved by 105 votes to two, a Government majority of 103.

Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary of State for Energy, moving the draft Coal Industry (Limit on Deficit Grants) Order 1984, said that over the two years 1983-84 and 1984-85 the National Coal Board was likely to require at least £2,000m simply to meet its losses on revenue account.

The Government (he went on) must support the case of the working miners and seek to point out to the country that we cannot possibly carry on with the level of losses the coal board is suffering at the present time.

The Coal Industry Act 1983 provided that the aggregate of deficit grant paid in the financial years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 should not exceed £1,200m. Provision was made, however, for this limit to be raised in one or more stages to £2,000m *by order.*

Less than a year after the 1983 Act became law, and only halfway through the period it was intended to cover, the Government was seeking the agreement of the House *to this extension of the power* to pay deficit grant.

The NCB made a very much larger loss in 1983-84 than had originally been anticipated and the strike and overtime ban increased it by £197m. Although the order before the House was not a direct consequence of the strike and was foreshadowed by the Government some months ago it would enable the Government to meet at least part of the additional loss which the NCB would incur in 1984-85 because of the strike.

Mr Alex Eadie, and Opposition spokesman on energy *(Midlothian,* Lab), said it was a scandal that the coal board chairman still remained in office when at one time he discribed the dispute as a little local difficulty outside of town. It was the Chancellor of the Exchequer who made the biggest gaffe of all when he talked about it being a worthwhile investment.

Mr Eric Cockeram (Ludlow, C) said it was time miners were told firmly that they could not expect endless subsidies from working people earning less than miners could earn. It was time that the tap was turned off. He could not *support the Government in its* request for this very large sum.

Mr Anthony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said the £2,000m represented 2p off income tax or 40p off a gallon of petrol. The extra £800m was a massive sum compared with the changes in overseas aid and the £39m cut from student grants. It was greater than the whole Foreign Office budget, including overseas aid, and three times Britain's net contribution to the European Community.

It will mean (he continued) £15 a head for every man, woman and child in this country. I have in my constituency some 70,000 constituents, perhaps 100,000 souls. If I were to walk through the lobby with the Government tonight what I would be doing is depriving my *constituency of £1,500,000 and I am* not going to do it.

Progress of Bills

The Hereford City Council Bill, Surrey Bill and Worcester City Council Bill were read a second time and the Greater London Council (Money) (No 2) Bill was read the third time in the Commons.

Cash for growth if next NHS pay settlement reasonable

HEALTH SERVICE

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab) asserted during Commons questions that Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, had sought to mislead MPs and the people with figures given on Government support for the National Health Service.

Mr Fowler said the Government would spend next year £17 billion on the health service. This was, he said, an increase of £700m on the anticipated total spending for 1984-85 and £200m more than previously announced in the 1984 expenditure White Paper.

The funds allocated to health authorities would be increased by 1 per cent over and above what would be *required* merely to keep pace with the rate of forecast inflation.

These figures (he said) demon*strate the reality of this Govern*ment's continuing commitment to the health service.

Mr Hamilton: However much he might seek to mislead the House and the country with these statistics, even his figures presume an increase in the pay of nurses and other ancillary staff of 3 per cent.

This means that over the last few years these people, despite all the *protestations* of the minister and his department, will continue to suffer a substantial reduction in their standard of living.

Mr Fowler: That is untypically unfair of him. There is an extra £700 million. If pay is settled reasonably at 3 per cent, there would be 2 per cent for growth from cash inside the service. But health departments have their cash budget and they must plan within it.

There is nothing different between the health service and any other service, or any other industry, in that.

Mr Kenneth Eastham (Manchester, Blackley, Lab) asked if the assessments included the ever-increasing number of pensioners, 100,000 a year, being added. This would increase the burden on the service.

Mr Fowler said he accepted that. This was why the Government was providing more cash for the health *service. There would be* 5½ per cent more cash for it next year as compared to this year.

● Later, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said the United *Kingdom spent 5.6 per cent of the* gross domestic product on the NHS in 1983. The corresponding figure for 1978 was 4.8 per cent.

Mr Michael Meacher, chief Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Under this Government's record on the NHS, which he calls expansion, 193 hospitals have been closed and only 35 opened.

If that was expansion, will he confirm that in this next year there is going to be contraction when for the first time he is forcing health authorities to cover costs of pay rises to health service workers over 3 per cent, or is he expecting health service workers, some of the lowest paid in this country, to subsidize the NHS by taking a real pay cut when *thousands of rich people* are being given massive tax hand-outs?

Mr Clarke: The figures on hospitals opening and closing are among the silliest he has ever used. He knows *perfectly* well we close small *old* hospitals and open new, bigger hospitals, so the total number of beds opened under this Government is almost equal to those lost.

We are treating more patients. The health service is not in the business of conserving buildings or just providing beds; it is treating patients – 3.5 million more patients than were treated a year before.

On next year's pay settlement, the fact is we are planning for a cash increase of 5.5 per cent on top of this year's health spending. Within that the health service has to find its pay costs just as every other service.

Hattersley condemns BT sale 'bungle'

SHARES

Mr Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, challenged the Prime Minister at question time in the Commons to say how much money would be lost to the Exchequer because of what he described as bungling over the flotation of the British Telecom shares.

He said Swiss and American bankers and brokers were buying forward to obtain BT shares and *offering 40 per cent above* the pre-issue price even before the issue had closed.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher: The Exchequer will have its money by virtue of the underwriting. What Mr Hattersley cannot stand is the success of the issue.

Mr Hattersley: Mrs Thatcher either does not understand the law or she is careless of its application.

The practice I have described is illegal, or would be, if it were operated by British subscribers. Why does she condone or boast about such a practice?

Mrs Thatcher: If there is anything illegal it is dealt with by the British courts totally and impartially.

Mr Hattersley does not want more extensive share ownership in this country and therefore he condemns *the privatization of BT.*

Drug firms 'screaming blue murder'

PRICE SCHEME

Arrangements have been made for Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, to meet representatives of the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry to discuss the drug price regulation scheme, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, said during questions.

He was asked for an assurance by *Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke, C) that* the measures resulting from Mr Fowler's recent statement about drug pricing would not effectively deny NHS patients certain important drugs such as the arthritis drug *Distalgesic.*

Mr Fowler replied: There are branded drugs which have been *developed specifically* for the *relief* of arthritis which will still be available. At present Distalgesic is not in this category. We are committed to this limited list scheme and the whole point of having a consultation period is to listen to the arguments on particular *drugs.*

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): He should resist the selfish and distorted propaganda of the pharmaceutical industry which is now screaming blue murder. The only advice he should accept is independent advice about implementing this very good proposal.

Mr Fowler: There is a balance to be held in these proposals. It is in on one's *interest to take measures* which are going to damage the research-based pharmaceutical industry in this country, but I believe that in the proposals we are not doing that. We are making useful savings in the health service budget and on those grounds the proposals should be supported.

Mr Robert McCrindle (Brentwood and Ongar, C): Will Mr Fowler confirm *that though his proposals* on generic prescribing will save the NHS money, there is no reason to doubt the efficacy of the alternative drugs? Those who have suggested we are moving towards one health service for the rich and one for the poor are guilty of mischievous nonsense. (Labour laughter)

Mr Fowler: I agree. Though there is laughter from the Opposition *benches I always thought it was the* Opposition's policy, too.

Callaghan tribute to murdered envoy

ASSASSINATION

There were expressions of sympathy from all sides of the House of Commons for the wife and family of Mr Percy Norris, the British Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, who was murdered this morning.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, described it as a cowardly and senseless murder. *It* was premature to speculate on who may have been responsible or what their motive might have been.

Mr Luce said the Indian police were making every effort to capture the assailant and were cooperating closely with the British High Commission.

After the assassination, the Indian government had immedi*ately provided extra security for* British diplomatic premises, including British Council offices.

He gave an assurance that the highest possible priority would be given to the security of British diplomats around the world, whatever adjustments were being made in the expenditure of the Foreign Office.

The security of the Deputy High *Commission in Bombay had been* inspected last year and the recommendations had been carried out. More recently the Indian authorities agreed to provide additional measures of their own.

But he emphasized that it was not possible for diplomats, any more than politicians, to carry out their functions properly and to be assured of absolute security at all times.

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Hamilton, Lab): Will he make it clear that no terrorists, whether here in Britain or abroad, will *persuade* this country and its Parliament to alter its friendship and long-standing links with the people of India?

Mr Luce: At the funeral of Mrs Gandhi there was the strongest possible demonstration on *behalf* of all parts of this House of the great friendship that exists between this *country and the people of India.*

Mr James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): Only three weeks ago on the day of Mrs Gandhi's assassination I arrived in Bombay to be met by Percy Norris and his wife who took immediate care for my security and safety and regarded themselves as responsible for it until the time I left.

He was a most unassuming, *capable officer* and he and Mrs Norris had just arrived in Bombay and were both looking forward eagerly to serving this country in India, as they did.

I would like to express deep regret and sorrow for Mrs Norris and for the driver who had driven Mr Norris and his predecessors for 20 years.

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP: *Nothing must be said or done to call* into question or doubt the capacity of India to pull together and survive the already shattering blow they have had.

Nothing should be said in this country, above all, to cause any suspicion in India government and people to overcome its problems.

Mr Luce: I am sure the views he expressed are the views of the vast majority of the House and the British people.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, completion of remaining stages. Lords (2.30): Debates on unemployed; production and sale of books, particularly for schools; and the Ethiopian famine.

Framework for more jobs

EMPLOYMENT

Dr David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats, reminded Mrs *Margaret Thatcher during Prime* Minister's questions of the commitment to full employment contained in the first general election manifesto on which she fought.

The 1950 election manifesto, Dr Owen said, bore the words: We regard the maintenance of full employment as the first aim of a Conservative government.

Does Mrs Thatcher still subscribe to those words? If she did would she not be better placed to speak for the majority of the people of this country?

Mrs Thatcher: The Government should do everything they possibly can to achieve the financial framework to maximise employment.

It must at the same time see that industries keep abreast of technological advances, as this Government is doing, and not extinguish the very enterprises from which future jobs will come.

I would have thought Dr Owen would have the same policy, he usually tries to imitate Conservative policies. (Laughter)

Mr David Winnick (Walsall, North, Lab): In view of the attack on Government economic policies by the Secretary of State for Energy *(Mr Peter Walker) is it not* surprising that he should wish to remain one of her ministers, or does she believe, like many on both sides, that he likes office far too much to act on his supposed convictions about the misery of mass unemployment?

Mrs Thatcher: I have Mr Walker's speech with me. Will he say precisely what he regards as an attack on the Government? I do not think he can have read the speech.

Stopping illegal trade in birds

ENVIRONMENT

The illegal trade in birds of prey where there were large profits to be made and possible connections with the international drug trade were involved was causing particular concern to the Government and action was being taken, Mr William Waldegrave, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, announced in the Commons.

He told MPs in a debate on the natural environment and the national heritage of Britain that the *Government was imposing a* moratorium on all movements of all diurnal birds of prey between the United Kingdom and Germany. This was being done on the advice of his department's enforcement team.

The Government would be rigorous in pursuit of illegal trade of endangered species and was convening an action seminar of international enforcement officers in Bristol in two weeks' time to find ways of making enforcement more effective.

One aspect of the Government's approach to reconciliation of *interests was the explicit attempt for* the first time to put into EEC law powers to use common agriculture policy money for conservation objectives. This had been welcomed among conservationists and farmers who were *interested.*

In support of the initiative, he had raised the subject of the interaction of agriculture in the environment with the relevant EEC Commissioner and the environment council. Britain would table a memorandum at the next Council of Ministers meeting on December 6 to follow this through.

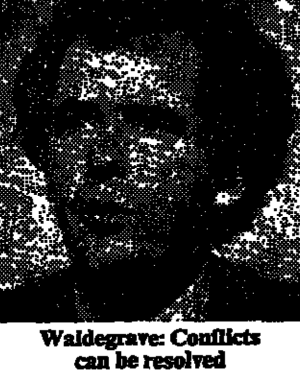
The Government was guilty of *dragging its feet over conservation* issues, Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, said when he opened the debate and moved an Opposition motion which expressed widespread concern about *the* alarming deterioration of the natural environment and called on the Government to respond immediately with action and legislation.

He said the Government had become laggard in its approach to acid rain. It was not enough to hide behind research and the call for a concerted international approach. There also needed to be a target date set for a ban on nuclear waste emissions into the sea.

Agriculture was always presented as a benign industry, but action should be taken to prevent the over-use and abuse of fertilizers and *pesticides.*

Mr Waldegrave moved a Government amendment noting the increased resources the Government proposed to devote to protecting the environment and the heritage.

He said the Government approach to countryside matters was based on a framework within which farmers and conservationists lived together. Since the Wildlife and *Countryside Act was passed, there* had been a growth of a new consensus among farmers and conservationists. Under the Act conflicts could be resolved.



Waldegrave: Conflicts can be resolved

There was a consensus in the House for a limited change to the Wildlife and Countryside Act, primarily to block the three-month loophole. The Government was having discussions to see if a private Member's Bill could meet the need.

The Government took seriously the death of swans from fishermen's lead weights. If an effective voluntary agreement could not be made it would consider legislation.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said he was determined that the Government, in conserving a proper international commitment to conservation, recognized the need for action. The Tories were niggardly in provision and lethargic in response to problems.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said he wished that those who criticized what was happening in the countryside would go up in a plane *and see for themselves that it is far* from being the desolate area they depicted.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L) said there were some signs that the Government was becoming a little green at the edges but it still had a long way to go.

The countryside should not be turned into a museum and place for tourists, weekenders or ornitholo*gists and biologists doing research.* The countryside was a living place where people lived and worked

Mr Sydney Chapman (Chipping Barnet, C) said that shortly the environment select committee was going to make recommendations *to* the Government on the section of the Wildlife and the Countryside Act dealing with sites of special scientific interest.

It had been estimated that in the past 35 years over half the country's lowland heaths had been lost, half its fenlands drained, over one third of the ancient woodlands felled and over a quarter of upland heaths and *grasslands destroyed.*

The scope of the change had been quite dramatic. If this was principally a result of the intensification of agriculture it was due not to the fault of the farmers but to successive governments who *had* wished and willed maximum food production. It had been achieved by a system of agricultural subsidies.

The countryside could not be preserved in aspic, nor should it be. It was the scale of the change that was worrying. At the least the system of financial support for agriculture had to be supplemeted with a more coherent and comprehensive structure of subsidies and grants for conservation.

The Opposition amendment was rejected by 276 votes to 190 – Government majority, 86.

The Government amendment was agreed to.

Home loans of long-term unemployed

New arrangements for handling the mortgage interest payments of long-term unemployed were called for by Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C) during questions in the Commons.

He asked Mr Antony Newton, Minister for Social Security, to consider, in consultation with the *social security advisory committee* for long-term unemployed and others, the possibilities of new arrangements for mortgage interest payments to go direct to the lender and not to the borrower, in view of the abuses that were taking place.

Mr Newton said he was conscious of this concern and had expressed it before.

But large number of people may *feel (he added) that it should not* become an automatic consequence of becoming unemployed that a building society is immediately told by the local social security office.

Report early in new year on cot deaths

The Government was looking forward to receiving early in the new year a report from Professor John Knowelden from the University of Sheffield into the problem of cot death, Mr John Patten, Under Secretary of Health and Social Security, said during Commons questions.

This report was the result of *seven years' work, he said in reply* to Mr Roy Galley (Halifax, C) who had called for more research into the harrowing topic of cot deaths.

Licensing laws

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said in a Commons written reply that the Home Secretary had no plans to reform the licensing laws, but the *matter was kept under review.*

Government acting to combat Aids

Action being taken by the Government to combat Aids – acquired immune deficiency syndrome – was spelled out by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social services, during Commons questions.

He ssured Mr David Sumberg (Bury South, C) that sufficient funds would be put at the disposal of the National Health Service to combat and publicize the danger of patients contracting the disease through blood transfusions.

Mr Sumberg had spoken of increasing pubic concern that the NHS did not have enough funds and resources for this purpose.

Mr Fowler said the Government was seeking to become self sufficient in Factor 8 so that it would not be imported. He hoped this would be achieved by 1986.

His department had also issued leaflets and more important, he was seeking ways of testing blood donations. No screening test had yet been developed, but a pilot trial would be started in London in the next few weeks.

Divided views on televising Parliament

HOUSE OF LORDS

A six month experiment in televising proceedings in the House of Lords was recommended by the Select Committee on Televising the House, starting possibly in January. Lord Aberdare, the Chairman of Committees, said in opening a debate on the commitee's report in the House of Lords on a motion accepting the report.

If accepted, he said, the experiment was likely to cost the House only £10,000 as the BBC and the *IBA had accepted they would treat* the televising of the House in the experimental period in the same way as any other outside broadcast. The BBC estimated that their costs for each day of television coverage would be about £20,000.

The committee recommended that the selection of what was broadcast and editorial control should be left to the broadcasting *authorities in the same was* as with sound broadcasts and that the terms of the resolution of the House on July 27 1077 under which sound broadcast operated should apply to the television experiment.

The committee also recommended that the position with regard to copyright and parliamentary privilege should be the same as for sound broadcasting.

Four cameras, sited in each corner of the chamber, would be used in the experiment and if hand held camers were required they would operate from the me position. *If the idea became permanent* romote control cameras would be slung beneath the galleries.

How often the proceedings were televised depended on the broadcasting authorities and their interest in the business before the House, but it was unlikely to happen more than two or three times a month once the novelty had worn off.

Ministerial statements repeated in the House of Lords would not be televised during the experimental period as it would be undesirable to risk the good will of ministers in the House of Commons. Live broadcasting would, in any case be very rare, most programmes having been recorded and edited.

While it was unlikely select committees would be televised very *often, the committee saw no reason* for their exclusion from the experiment.

The EEC had offered to provide the House with a copy tape of material used on their programmes which could be replayed on the House's video recorder for the benefit of any peers who had missed the debate. Tapes would also be supplied to enable the House to *assess the editorial process.*

Lord Chalfont (Ind) moved an amendment saying the select committee report should not be implemented until the Commons *decided to hold an experiment.*

He said Lords proceedings were already publicly available through the *Official Report,* the press gallery and sound broadcasting. No one was deprived of knowledge of what went on in the House by the absence of television cameras.

The television camera, unlike the microphone or any other instrument of reporting, was capable of making news as well as reporting it. Nobody's behaviour remained entirely unchanged when he or she knew that a camera was present.

The House was not a place for *great drama, impassioned rhetoric* or high-flown oratory. Its members addressed each other courteously and usually with respect. He feared that a geat deal of that might change when the television lights were on and the red light on the camera was glowing.

If the proceedings were to be televised, even for an experimental period, the House should continue to have a substantial, indeed a decisive, voice in the way in which the camera was used and the proceedings were edited and transmitted.

Lord Home Of the Hirsel (C) said that with newspapers and sound broadcasting admitted already he could not argue in principle that television should be excluded and that this experiment should not be made. It could certainly be argued that it would be advantageous for the public to see their parliamentary insitutions at work.

Concentration of sound broadcasts from the Commons on the period of Prime Minister's questions was a mistake for which the reputation of that House *had* paid a price. Any experienced parliamen*tarian knew that in recent years that* period had become a sort of trick exercise. It had turned into a noisy mock-gladiatorial contest on the model of Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

It would be essential that from the start of this trial complete control of the House of the matters selected for televising must be established. The rules must be understood, accepted and operated by the television authorities.

Lord Aylestone (SDP) said they were getting this experiment on the cheap. Should they agree at the end of six months to continue beyond the experiment with full coverage of the House the cost was going to be very considerable.

I hope (he said) that as a result of the experiment we will decide to prove that it is possible to televise this chamber and in the course of time the other chamber too without so many of the problems people fear will arise.

Lord Ardwick (Lab) *said that in* Britain as in most other countries Parliament was badly reported. Only *The Times* gave anything like a full report of the Commons and even *The Times* was extremely economical in the space it gave to the Lords. For most people the only full report easily available was *provided by Radio 4 which* was under an obligation to do so, but radio was a minority interest.

If a wider public was to be given a chance of finding out something about the everyday work of *Parliament television* was the only medium that could do it. It would be obscurantist now to turn back and say "no" to the experiment.

Lord Peyton of Yeovil (C) said he did not believe there would be many occasions on which the Lords on its own would merit full-scale coverage. Why was there this anxiety on the part of the broadcasting authorities to knock loudly on the *door of the House? He could not but* believe that what they really sought was admission to the place down the corridor.

In the Commons attention had been concentrated on Prime Minister's questions. Those responsible for television had yielded to the temptation to convert public affairs and the arena in which they were conducted into a bull ring. The select committee report had done nothing to comfort him on any point, nor had it made clear where in the event of the experiment being judged a success the money for the next stage would come from.

Lord Denning (Ind) said debates were of interest to the whole community and the public should be allowed to form their own view of them. Public opinion was the most emphatic force in the land. If great issues were being debated the public should be able to see and hear them.

Lord Soames (C) said parliamentary proceedings were *about the only* facet of national life which was not televised. Radio was the worst of both worlds.

Compulsory mud flaps for lorries

MOTORING

Answering a question on standard spray suppression devices for heavy freight vehicles Lord Brabazon of Tara, the Government spokesman, told the House of Lords: The Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Nicholas Ridley, after consulting widely with all sections of the industry, laid regulations on October 10 and these are now before this House. They make mandatory the fitting of spray reducing equipment to heavy lorries.

These regulations would come into effect progressively from May 1, 1985, starting with new trailers, followed by new motor vehicles and existing heavy trailers.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C): Has he thought how to procede from our own vehicles to our visitors from Europe who come here in large numbers with very large vehicles?

Lord Brabazon of Tara: At the moment visiting vehicles are exempt through the Geneva and Vienna Conventions. There is no European Community directive or regulation on this but we hope the Community will follow our lead and harmonization will follow based on our standards.

Lord Underhill (Lab): A number of heavy goods vehicles have been running with these for some time successfully and a number of coaches. Is there any reason why this order should not cover coaches?

Lord Brabazon of Tara: There is no *proposal for these regulations* to cover coaches, but I will draw the point to the attention of the Secretary of State.

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Country sports groups unite to defeat animal rights campaign

By Colin Hughes

Britain's hunting, shooting, and fishing fraternity have united to form a national body dedicated to defending country sports against animal rights campaigners and other opponents.

The Council for Country Sports was inaugurated at a meeting yesterday at St Ermin's Hotel in London, attended by representatives from associations of every field sport from coarse angling to beaglers, and tackle-makers to falconers.

The new body will form a pressure group to promote the role of country sports enthusiasts as natural conservationists, and will act as an umbrella organization to work with police and politicians in preventing disruptive demonstrations against the sports.

Sir Humphrey Atkins, the former government minister and keen fisherman, who will chair the new council, said: "More and more the lead in opposing country sports is being taken by people whose chief concern has nothing to do with the protection of wild animals, but simply with the extension of violence and lawlessness, and further challenges to the police."

The Council claims to represent more than 5 million country sports followers, including 3 million coarse and game anglers, 800,000 licensed gun-holders, and the 1 million huntsmen and women who are estimated to follow the country's 400 packs of hounds each year.

The three biggest organizations joining the launch are the British Field Sports Society, the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, and the National Angler's Council.

Representatives ephasized that people who pursue live quarry need to nurture the right habitat. As many field sportsmen are also country landowners, they argue, they are best placed to preserve hedgerows, woods, bird and mammal life and stetches of clean, open water.

Mr Richard Course, executive director of the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "I feel quite honoured that they're taking our campaign so seriously that they are having to react in this way. This new council is simply an extension of the existing Campaign for Country Sports, with the support of the same people who have failed to stop us before: they want to put the clock back, and they can't".

Mr Ronald Lee, spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front, said that he understood those, hunt saboteurs who had begun to react to violence from landowners by fighting back. "If you've been beaten up while trying to peacefully protest, it's not surprising that people decide to give as good as they get".



Song of survival: Boys of St Paul's cathedral choir singing Advent carols at the launch yesterday of an appeal, by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Alan Traill, for £500,000 for their choir school. Money is needed to give the school a separate foundation. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Fear protects £9m thieves

A gang of "powerful, ruthless, vicious and cruel" international crooks were behind the disposal of £9m of bonds stolen from a City bank, a judge at the Central Criminal Court in London said yesterday.

In spite of a huge police operation the ringleaders had never been discovered, because of "fear", Judge Abdela, QC, said.

Photocopies of the bonds had turned up in London, Dublin, on the Continent and in Saudi Arabia, where plans were made to sell them. One man claimed that the IRA and Libyans were involved, Judge Abdela said, although the police had found no evidence to support the claim.

The man, James Farugia, aged 40, a hotel owner of St Paul's Bay, Malta, who said he was "too terrified" to give detectives information, was jailed for three years when he pleaded guilty to receiving eight of the bonds, worth £5.5m.

The bonds were stolen in a burglary at the Bank of Iran, Eastcheap, in December, 1982.

Judge Abdela told Farugia: "This is something which has a very wide network of dangerous international crooks behind it. You became enmeshed in this web of intrigue. If you had given information about those running it, measures could have been taken to safeguard you and your family."

Mr Dorian Lovell-Pank, for the prosecution, said Farugia, a father of four, was arrested at the Lancaster Gate Hotel, Bayswater, after a tip-off from police in Norway.

Assaults on prison staff double in Scotland

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Assaults on staff in Scottish prisons have more doubled in four years, from 75 in 1980 to 158 last year.

Describing the trend as "disturbing", Mr Alistair Thomson, director of the Scottish Prison Service, suggests two possible causes in the annual report on prisons, published yesterday.

First, an increasing number of inmates received into custody suffer from personality disorderso or other forms of emotional instability, often attributable to drink or drugs.

Second, this rise may reflect an apparently violent society in general.

Perhaps the most dangerous of a number of serious incidents was perhaps when an inmate at Perth prison held a staff member hostage at knife point for 21 hours.

Prisons in Scotland Report for 1983 (Stationery Office: £4.25).

False names appeal to guests at bomb hotel

By Rupert Morris

Police investigating the IRA bombing at last month's Conservative Party conference in Brighton want to speak to several people who stayed in the Grand Hotel under false names between July 1 and October 11.

In particular, they want to interview a man who stayed with another person in room 530 on September 18, and in room 427 on October 2. Each time he booked a double room in the name of J. Morgan, of Small Dole, near Henfield.

Police also renewed their appeal to a man calling himself Roy Walsh, who gave a false address of 27 Braxfield Road, London, SE4, and stayed on September 15 and 18 in room 629.

These men are urged to get in touch with Brighton police on 0273 606744 (incident room), so that they can be eliminated from inquiries.

Princess's uncle leaves £2.6m

Lord Fermoy, aged 45, uncle of the Princess of Wales, who shot himself while depressed at his home in Hungerford, Berkshire, on August 19, left estate valued at £2,695,251 net.

He directed his trustees to offer all his active polo ponies first to the Royal Horse Guards and secondly to the Household Brigade Polo Club. The rest of his property was left mainly to his family. Other wills, page 14

The law's delay: 3

Variations in bail at magistrates' courts

In magistrates' courts, the biggest problem is lack of information on where delays occur. In the last of three articles, FRANCES GIBB, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at the steps courts have been urged to take while this data is being collected.

Magistrates' courts, which deal with 90 per cent of all criminal cases, have been instructed by the Home Office to take measures to improve efficiency and reduce delays.

The first big problem is the granting of bail by courts, which clearly has a direct effect on numbers in custody. The Bail Act 1976 created a general right to bail, subject to certain exceptions such as where the alleged offence is imprisonable and there is a risk of further offences if bail is granted.

But there is a huge variation in the granting of bail by courts after first remand, from 60 per cent to 90 per cent of defendants. The Home Office and chief police officers have just launched an inquiry into why this should be.

There is also considerable evidence, put before the Commons home affairs committee, that courts apply the Bail Act in different ways, particularly in the light of two court rulings which prevent fresh bail applications unless there are changed circumstances.

Those rulings, it was argued, undermined Parliament's intention that bail should be considered afresh every eight days, and the MPs recommended that the decisions be reversed, by legislation if necessary. They also called for magistrates' courts to have power to require a surety for good behaviour when granting bail (at present it can be required only for an appearance); and for "bail" courts close to prisons to deal with remands. Finally they called for more bail hostels.

The Home Office response has been mixed. It has urged courts to make more use of short two or three-day remands, for the gathering of further information while bail is being considered. But it has rejected any change to the bail rulings.

It has also rejected sureties for good behaviour. Courts already have power, it points out, to impose certain conditions to stop further offences or interference with witnesses.

Special "bail" courts would be costly, the Home Office says, and would not necessarily benefit the funding local authority. But it is considering greater use of courts' existing powers to transfer a case to a court nearer the defendant's prison, and also reviewing bail hostel provision.

On police bail, granted after a charge before the remand hearing, there is also great variation from area to area, with some police bailing for seven days, some for several weeks. The Home Office is now suggesting a three-week limit, with one week for most routine minor offences. Some courts have already agreed that police bail should be for only one day. But whatever the local circumstances, the period should not be left to the police, officials say.

Other steps include simplification of summons and committal procedures, longer court sitting hours, rationalization of charge sheets and a stricter attitude by court listing officers.

The Justices' Clerks' Society estimates that delays arising from preparation of committal papers lie behind nearly half of all requests for adjournments. It suggests that those accused of indictable offences, subject to safeguards, be committed for trial without waiting for the service of written statements. The home affairs committee concluded that a statutory time limit would deal with this difficulty but the whole question of committal procedure none the less is under review.

Police have also agreed to give courts details at committals of how long the accused has been in custody.

Listing officers are being urged to take a tougher line with lawyers to reduce the number and length of adjournments.

The benefits of all those measures can be assessed only when the crucial information has been obtained on exactly where the delays are occurring. But it is likely that if they fail to show substantial results, the proposal resurrected by the Lord Chief Justice – to remove some minor offences from jury trial – will gain ground; the magistrates and the Lord Chancellor already strongly support it.

Concluded

PIE extradition ruling delayed by Dutch

A court in Assen in The Netherlands, yesterday postponed a ruling on the extradition of Steven Smith, aged 29, who is being sought by British authorities on charges of obscenity and immorality relating to his membership in the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE).

Mr Leo Meijers, said the court had postponed the ruling "to obtain more information about some minor details"

Mr Meijers said that although the court ruled that Mr Smith could not be extradited on the charge pending against him in the United Kingdom of "soliciting adults to sexual intercourse with minors," it suspended final adjudication "to give the British Government the opportunity" to provide more information on another charge,

Libel actions against paper are dropped

Mr Alex William Herbage, an investment broker, yesterday discontinued libel actions in the High Court against *The Sunday Times* about references to his bankruptcy.

His counsel, Miss Hilary Heilbron, told Mr Justice McNeill that in January, 1983, the newspaper mentioned he had been bankrupt and had been "100 per cent discharged".

He had, in fact, had his bankruptcy annulled, having paid off his creditors in full, and because the court was satisfied on his general conduct. The newspaper recognized the distinction between annulment and discharge and accepted the statement in open court. Mr Herbage discontinued his action along with five others started between 1981 and 1983 about other references to him.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

Has Mr Kinnock made a breakthrough on arms control in his discussion with President Chernenko in Moscow? The Soviet leader has made two offers. The Soviet Union would be prepared to reduce and dismantle its missiles on a one-for-one basis for every British nuclear missile that was scrapped; and no Soviet nuclear weapons would be targeted on this country if Britain removed all nuclear weapons from its territory, in accordance with Labour's official defence policy.

The offer to match the reduction of British missiles would apparently apply not only to those British missiles already deployed, but also to Trident if Britain decided no to go ahead with it, though that is not clear from the press statement released by Tass.

These assurances spell out in rather more detail why President Andropov had offered in May 1983. But the critical question is not whether Mr Chernenko has put forward anything new, but whether he has proposed anything that would be worth accepting.

Those of us who believe in maintaining an independent British deterrent will not be attracted by the package. A partial reduction in the Soviet nuclear arsenal would be no compensation for the total loss of the British deterrent. Nor should one draw much comfort from a promise not to target weapons on Britain: such a decision could presumably be reversed swiftly in time of crisis.

But there are a good many people in this country who are not unilateralists, yet who believe that it will not be feasible for Britain to keep indefinitely its own deterrent. That will prove, in their judgement, to be just too expensive.

This school of thought might reasonably conclude that, if the independent deterrent has to be renounced anyway, it would be better to get something rather than nothing for such a concession. Whether Mr Chernenko was offering something or nothing would depend on whether he would permit the reduction of Soviet missiles to be verified adequately.

Unilateral benefits

Mr Kinnock may at least judge that he has obtained something useful in political terms. At the last election Labour had no answer to the criticism that the party was willing to give up the British deterrent without getting anything in return. Now Mr Kinnock can claim that he has negotiated something, and that even an imperfect exchange would be better than nothing.

Labour proposes, however, not only to abandon Britain's independent deterrent but also to get rid of all American nuclear bases from British territory. Nothing that Mr Kinnock has obtained from Mr Chernenko would make that a safer course for Britain. Indeed, in one critical sense the Labour leader's discussions in Moscow have made his party's defence policy look an even more dangerous proposition.

The objection to removing American nuclear bases is not only, perhaps not even principaly, that it would weaken the defence capability of the West. It is that such an action, imposed arbitrarily by one ally upon another, would destabilize Nato. It would breed uncertainty on the continent of Europe and encourage those in the United States who would like to reduce American force levels in Europe.

Yet that is also liable to be the effect of the leader of Britain's principal opposition party appearing to negotiate in Moscow for unilateral benefits for this country in exchange fo unilateral actions.

Of course, it is reasonable for leading politicians from any Western country, whether in office or in opposition, to have discussions with the leaders of the Soviet Union. That is the way in which a broad East-West dialogue can be developed. It is a valuable means of exploring the thinking of the Kremlin. The whole of the Atlantic alliance can benefit from such activity.

But it can do so only if such discussions are conducted in a way that takes account of the needs of the whole alliance. Part of Mr Kinnock's conversation with Mr Chernenko came into that category. He was seeking to explore the possibilities for arms negotiations that might follow from Mr George Shultz's meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko in the new year. That was fair enough. He might possibly have gained some useful insights.

But it is hardly acting like a loyal member of Nato to negotiate with Mr Chernenko what benefits might be obtained for Britain by kicking out the Americans.

Big increase in spending on arms announced at Supreme Soviet meeting

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Supreme Soviet, Russia's Parliament, yesterday met to approve a dramatic 12 per cent increase in the Soviet defence budget, apparently to match US military development.

Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the 53-year-old heir apparent to President Chernenko, made his reappearance at the session in the Kremlin, but Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, aged 76, the Defence Minister, did not. Marshal Ustinov is thought to be seriously ill.

Mr Gorbachov, who had been the subject of political speculation, took his seat in the Politburo front row on the platform, next to Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister, and Mr Chernenko.

There is still no explanation why Mr Gorbachov was able to return from holiday to attned the Red Square parade on 7 November but not to attend crucial meetings of the leadership, including an enlarged Politburo session on 15 November and a meeting of the Supreme Soviet foreign affairs commission, of which he is chairman, last Friday.

Mr Gorbachov alos failed to meet Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, even though he is to visit Britain in just over two weeks' time.

Yesterday Mr Gorbachov, wearing glasses, held animated converstions with Mr Gromyko while making copious notes. Mr Chernenko appeared fit but frail, holding on to the backs of chairs as he walked slowly into the chamber of the Kremlin Great Palace.

The 1,500-member Supreme Soviet meets twice a year, and automatically endorses party policy without Western-style debate. This year policy was laid down by the enlarged Politburo session two weeks ago, and the Central Committee failed to convene on the eve of the Supreme Soviet, as it ahs done for at least 20 years.

Mr Boris Ponomaryov, a candidate Politburo member, told *The Times* it was "not obligatory" to hold a plenum before the Supreme Soviet, and that there was broader discussion of economic issues in the Supreme Soviet in line with Mr Chernenko's dictum that the role of government (as opposed to party) should be enhanced.

Diplomats said they found that unconvincing, however, and said the plenum on Monday ahd been cancelled because of policy disagreements.

Marshall Nikolai Ogarkov, dismissed in September as Chief of Staff, appeared at the Soviet for the first time since his demotion, still with a marshal's star on his epaulettes. He sat, as he used to sit when in power, with hands folded on a desk clear of papers, as if bored by the economic speeches.

Yesterday, however, Mr Vasily Garbuzov, the Finance Minister, surprized observers by announcing an increase in the defence budget for 1985 to 19.06bn roubles (£19.8bn), a 12per cent increase. Defence spending had remained officially static for the past four years, although Western experts say real defence spending in disguised under other headings and amounts to some 15 per cent of the total rather than the official 5 per cent.

The increase is none the less striking confirmation of the Soviet need to match costly American weapons developments despite economic sacrifices at home. Marshal Ogarkov, who is thought to have been at the centre of a dispute over the arms race, remained impassive during the annoucement.

Mr Garbuzov and Mr Nikolai Baibakov, head of state planning, also announced that national income had grown by 3.1 per cent in 1984. The growth rate target for 1985 is 3.5 per cent, a modest increase which partly reflects the diversion of scarce resources to defence.

Mr Baibakov said industrial production had risen by 4.4 per cent in 1984, compared to a target figure of 3.4 per cent. The target for 1985 is 3.9 per cent. Western observers said these figures were equivalent to a western gross national product growth rate of about 2.5 per cent.

No grain figure for 1984 was announced, confirming Western reports that the harvest has been poor. Mr Baibakov said that oil production, which this year was some four million tonnes below target at 615 million tonnes, would rise by only 2 per cent next year to 628 million tonnes. Gas production, on the other hand, was expected to rise to 632 billion cubic metres in 1985.

More police fly in to curb island protests

Paris thinks again on Noumea

From Diana Geddes, Paris

As the political storm over the French Government's handling of the state of virtual insurrection in New Caledonia continued in Paris yesterday, police reinforcements were flown to the Pacific Islands, and a senior Government official began talks in Noumea, the capital with various parties, including the former colony's separatists.

Separatists meanwhile are reported to be continuing to set fire to buildings, pillaging, blocking roads and slaughtering livestock in an attempt to persuade the Government to restrict to indigenous Kanaks the promised referendum on self-determination of the French overseas territory, thus virtually ensuring total independence from France.

The separatists, who on Saturday announced their own "provisional government" in opposition to the newly-elected territorial government, have succeeded in getting the Government to bring forward the referendum date, which was originally set for 1989.

No new date has yet been fixed, but the Kanaks evidently hope it will be before the 1986 French parliamentary elections, which are likely to return a right-wing majority less sympathetic to their separatist aspirations than is the present Government.

The Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République, which is affiliated to the Gaullist RPR party, vehemently opposes any form of independence, as its name implies. It won an unexpected landslide victory in the November 18 election for a new and semi-autonomous territorial Assembly, gaining 71 per cent of the vote.

Half the electorate failed to turn out to vote, however, marking as much of a victory for the separatist Front Nationale de Liberation Kanaque, which had called for an election boycott.

Some 12,000 miles from Europe in the South Pacific, New Caledonia has belonged to the French since 1853. It has a population of 145,000, of which 43 per cent are Melanesian Kanaks, 37 per cent whites of French origin, and the rest mainly Asian immigrants. Most whites and immigrants oppose total break from France.

The French Government's original plan after this month's election was to set up a joint committee, composed half of Government representatives and half from the new Assembly, to draw up conditions and terms for the self-determination referendum.

The overwhelming victory of the anti-separatist vote and the strength of support for the separatist militants have both led the Government to reexamine the position.

The Minister for France's Overseas Departments and Territories, M Georges Lemoine, caused an uproar at the weekend when he appeared to call into question the election results by drawing a distinction between "legal" representatives of those on the islands and the "real" representatives.

Under the terms of New Caledonia's new statute, the French Government may annul the election, but for the moment it is awaiting a decision by the administrative tribunal looking into alleged irregularities. In the meantime, the already beleagured Government faces another very delicate situation it will not find easy to solve.

Full text of Gibraltar agreement

The full text of the agreement on Gibraltar reached yesterday in Brussels is:

1. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, the Right Honourable Sir Geoffrey Howe, and the Spanish Foreign Minister, His Excellency Señor Don Fernando Morán Lopez, held a meeting in Brussels on November 27 during which they agreed on the way in which the Spanish and British Governments will apply by not later than February 15, 1985, the Lisbon Decaration of April 10, 1980, in all its parts. This will involve simultaneously:

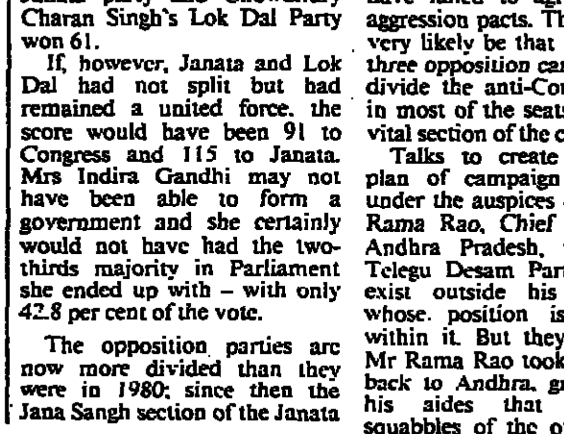
(A) The provision of equality and reciprocity of rights for Spaniards in Gibraltar and Gibraltarians in Spain. This will be implemented through the mutual concession of the rights which citizens of EEC countries enjoy, taking into account the transitional periods and derogations agreed between Spain and Gibraltar. As concerns paid employment, and recalling the general principle of Community preference, this carries the implication that during the transitional period each side will be favourably disposed to each other's citizens when granting work permits.

(B) The establishment of the free movement of persons, vehicles and goods between Gibraltar and the neighbouring territory.

(C) The establishment of a negotiating process aimed at overcoming all the differences between them over Gibralter and at promoting co-operating on a mutually beneficial basis on economic, cultural, touristic, aviation, military and environmental matters. Both sides accept that the issues of sovereignty will be discussed in that process. The British Government will fully maintain its commitment to houour the wishes of the people of Gibraltar as set out in the preamble of the 1969 constitution.

2. Insofar as the airspace in the region of Gibraltar is concerned, the Spanish Government undertakes to take the early actions necessary to allow safe and effective aircommunications.

3. There will be meetings of working groups, which will be reviewed periodically in meetings for this purpose between the Spanish and British Foreign Ministers.





Brussels breakthrough: Señor Fernando Morán, Spain's Foreign Minister (right), arriving for yesterday's meeting, and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, giving a press conference afterwards.

González hails Rock pact

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

An "historic new prcess" had been begun by yesterday's Anglo-Spanish agreement on Gibraltar, Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, said.

The agreement was reached after talks in Brussels between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary and his Spanish counterpart, Seŏr Fernando Morgan. Señor Gonzälez said there was noplace for ahouting about triumps, but the agreement did represent an advance for the whole of Spanish foreign policy.

Spain emphasized Britain's experss commitment to negotiate the sovereignty od Gibraltar. "For us, this really opens a process of decolonizing the Rock," the Spanish Foreign Minister spokesman said.

The state radio and television said it was "the first time since 1713, the end of the War of the Spanish Succession, when Spain lost the Rock, that a British government had ever agreed to tackle sovereignty." This had the effect of putting well into second place Madrid's unavoidable obligations to raise the final frontier restrictions on the Rock, before Spain joins the EEC.

From Gibraltar, Sir Joshua Hassan, the Chief Minister, speaking by telephone, said the agreement was an "honourable outcome" to lengthy negotiation and a first step towards fruitful cooperation between Gibraltar and its vicinity.

However, he reiterated Gibraltarians' opposition to any negotiations over sovereignty. "We have always placed our faith in the British Government and people and we will continue to do so."

When the Spanish Foreign Ministry spokesman was pressed by Spanish reporters to sat exactly what recovering sovereignty meant, he replied: "That Gibraltar becomes just one more piece of Andalucia, of Spain."

Sir Joshua, asked to comment, said: "That's bloody nonsense, in my best Spanish."

In a note accompanying the joint agreement, Madrid yesterday clarified what questions, in its view, Britain had agreed to tackle regarding sovereignty. They covered "both the theme of sovereignty of the territory referred to in the Treaty of Utrecht as well as sovereignty of the isthmus, which was never ceded to Britain".

Spanish officials yesterday suggested that a visit to Madrid by Mrs Margaret Thatcher could occur soon, since the Brussels delaration had firmly established normal relations.

Representatives in La Linea, the nearest town on the Spanish side, yesterday expressed belief that the local economy would benefit.

And Sir Joshua spoke of "hundreds of thousands of tourists hotherto stopped at the frontier who would be able now to travel freely".

Feeling good, looking good

Heart man asks for a beer

From Trevor Fishlock New York

William Schroeder's mechanical heart is pumping audibly at 60 beats a minute and "working beautifully," Dr William De-Vries, the implant surgeon, said yesterday.

"I asked him today: 'How are you doing'? He asked if the heart was working all right and I said: 'Yes, it is'. I asked him: 'Can I get you anything'? And he said: 'I'd like a can of beer'.

Cold comfort: Mr Schroeder being fed ice chips yesterday to quench his thirst in the Humana coronary unit.

"He is feeling good and looking good and everything is functioning on schedule. We are very pleased. He is doing excellently. I am very excited about the surgery. It went smoothly and there were no surprises," he added.

Dr De-Vries, aged 40, is the only surgeon in the United States licensed to carry out artificial heart implants. He performed the pioneering operation on Dr Barney Clark at the University of Utah two years ago. Subsequently he went to the Humana chain of commercial hospitals which is funding an implant programme.

He sewed a pump into Mr Schroeder in a seven-hour operation at the Humana Heart Institute in Louisville, Kentucky, on Sunday.

Speaking for the first time about the operation, Dr De-Vries said Mr Schroeder, who is 52, was very close to death before the operation.

Before we went ahead he said he was happy with it, that he did not have any other choice. And he really didn't have any choice. That Saturday was going to be one of the last days of his life.

"We would have preferred to wait until Wednesday this week, but it became obvious on Friday afternoon that he was not going to survive the weekend. He deteriorated greatly and we did not get there any too soon. We selected Sunday morning and on Saturday night I was worried that we would have to do it that night. But he stabalized."

Dr Devries said Mr Schroeder can feel the heart. It does not hurt, but he can feel it thumping. He says it feels "a little prominent."

The 10-oz steel and plastic pump is operated from a compressor, the size of a small refrigerator. Air tubes enter Mr Schroeder's abdomen near the navel. Tomorrow and on Friday and Saturday doctors will have trial runs with a 12 lb portable compressor that could, in ideal circumstances, be carried in a shoulder bag, giving up to three hours of independence from the larger machine.

In medical circles the operation on Mr Schroeder, at a profit-making hospital, with attendant public relations activity, has opened a debate about the propriety of such work in a commercial organization.

A leading critic of the Humana programme is Dr Arnold Relman, editor of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, who worries that doctors risk losing "the soul and integrity" of their profession by becoming involved in commercial hospitals.

Dr Devries said yesterday: "I have set up this project exactly the way I wanted without any question about costs and I have been able to select the patient without considering whether he can pay his bill. Humana have made no demands on what I can do. I have been impressed by the marriage between the two [commerce and medicine]. With the resources available here I can do the [operations] much better than I ever could in the so-called university hospital. I am very pleased with the way things are going".

Indian opposition faces disaster over failure of poll pacts

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

The Indian public has been watching with fascinated horror as the opposition parties, preparing to fight the general election at Christmas time, have been committing ritual suicide.

The only way that the opposition leaders have any chance of replacing Mr Rajiv Gandhi as Prime Minister is by combining and avoiding splitting the votes opposed to his Congress (I) party.

But it has now become clear that talks on agreements to put up single opposition candidates in the north of India, where the bulk of the parliamentary seats are, have hopelessly broken down.

The lessons of 1980 seem not to have been learnt. Of the 221 parliamentary seats in the Hindi belt – the heartland of confrontation between Congress and the national opposition parties – Congress won 145 that year, and between them the Janata party and Chowdhury Charan Singh's Lok Dal Party won 61.

If, however, Janata and Lok Dal had not split but had remained a united force, the score would have been 91 to Congress and 115 to Janata. Mrs Indira Gandhi may not have been able to form a government and she certainly would not have had the two-thirds majority in Parliament she ended up with – with only 42.8 per cent of the vote.

The opposition parties are now more divided than they were in 1980; since then the Jana Sangh section of the Janata Party separated and re-formed as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Across the Hindi belt all three segments of the coalition that ruled from 1977 to 1979 have failed to agree on non-aggression pacts. The result will very likely be that two or even three opposition candidates will divide the anti-Congress votes in most of the seats across this vital section of the country.

Talks to create a national plan of campaign were held under the auspices of Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, whose own Telegu Desam Party does not exist outside his state, but whose position is dominant within it. But they failed and Mr Rama Rao took himself off back to Andhra, grumbling to his aides that the petty squabbles of the other leaders appalled him. He is reported to have told his confidants that he no longer wished to campaign outside his own state and made a public announcement to his supporters to that effect.

Since then talks on a bilateral basis have been taking place state by state. Only in Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu do any agreements (the Indians call them "seat adjustments") seem to have been reached. These are well outside the Hindi heartland, and in Gujarat at least Congress won a perfectly respectable 10 out of 26 seats, even in the disaster year of 1977.

In any case, the agreement is already faltering, with Mrs Menaka Gandhi's party declaring it will put up 11 candidates in place of the one allocated to it it under the pact.

But in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, which together send 135 MPs to Delhi, no such agreements have been possible.

In Bihar, Chowdhury Charan Singh's newly-renamed Dalit Mazdoor Kisan Party has split into its constituent parts again, and the leader of the Lok Dal portion of it announced a separate list of candidates to contest 16 constituencies.

Nominations closed yesterday and all names have to be in, though it may be possible to give effect to a seat adjustment agreement by pulling out candidates before the last days for such withdrawals on Friday.

In the meantime, the Congress party is going ahead with fielding as attractive a selection of candidates as possible.

A list of candidates released by the party at the weekend shows that some old warhorses, whose inclusion could have damaged the party's prospects because of associations with corruption or other misbehaviour, have been dropped. Mr A. R. Antulay, a former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, at present standing trial for corruption, has not been given a ticket, though he is threatening to stand on his own.

Mr Dharam Das Shastri has been dropped from his seat in the Delhi constituency reserved for scheduled caste (the former Untouchables) candidates. He figured in news reports recently protesting at the arrest of people found in possession of loot after the spasm of anti-Sikh violence.

Fourteen members of the Congress Legislature Party in Manipur have left the party after not being given renewed tickets to stand in the state assembly elections there, which will take place at the same time as the general election.

Sports hero Aslam Sher, the Hockey player, is being given a chance to enter Parliament from Madhya Pradesh.

Luce assures MPs of security priority

Cuts in the Foreign Office budget announced last week will not affect the priority given to the security of diplomats abroad, Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, told MPs yesterday (Philip Webster writes).

Mr Luce gave the assurance demanded by the Opposition and Sir Peter Blaker, chairman of the Conservative backbench foreign affairs committee, after the murder of Mr Norris.

Security spending for the protection of diplomats in various parts of the world had increased considerably and, "as far as we can see, will continue to increase".

Troops patrol Santiago on first day of protest

Santiago (AFP) – Armed soldiers patrolled the streets of the Chilean capital in full combat uniform yesterday at the beginning of the first of two days of national protest against the 11-year military regime of General Augusto Pinochet. Commuter bus garages reported a full service, but many buses reaching the city centre were less than half full. Shops were open, but in Lo Valledor the city's biggest vegetable and meat wholesale markets operated at about half capacity at the peak delivery hour because of lack of transport.

The first clash was not reported until early afternoon when police used water-cannon to disperse a city centre gathering. Armoured vehicles and soldiers were most in evidence in the capital's working-class districts.

The organizers – the National Workers' Command, backed by the Communist-led Popular Democratic Alliance – had called for go-slows, worker meetings, and boycotts of shops and civil adminsiration offices in protest at the three-week-old state of siege.

But in the morning only a few absentees were reported in schools and the pattern was the same in Chile's three other main centres, Valparaio, Vina del Mar and Concepción.

At least 10 bombs exploded late on Monday ought, one of them near the presidential palace.

Explosions also rocked the Las Condes and Provicencia sections of Santiago.

Gulf refugees pour into Denmark

From Christopher Follett Copenhagen

Denmark has been plunged into crisis by an endless and increasing stream of refugees from Iran and Iraq.

According to the Danish Refugee Organization, more than 600 refugees, mainly Iranian and Iraqi, have sought political asylum in October and November, compared with a total of all nationalities last year of only 350.

This year, about 3,800 refugees have entered Denmark, nearly 2,000 of which are Iranians, mainly male deserters and conscientious objectors of good education and background in the age group 18 to 30, escaping from the Gulf War. Hundreds of Iraqis have also joined the flood via Turkey and East Berlin to Denmark.

The steep increase is attributed by the authorities to the recent liberalization of Danish laws on aliens. Border police can no longer refuse entry and refugees are legally guaranteed a hearing for their applications for political guarantee a hearing for their applications for political asylum.

About 60 per cent of Iranians are granted asylum, although it often takes more than six months to process because of acute shortages.

The tenfold refugee increase in a year has led to an equivalent rise in the Ministry of Justice refugee budget to 60m kroner (£4.5m).

With the nine refugee centres in Denmark unable to cope, the ministry has requested funds to double the number of camps and staff. Disused prisons, hospitals, provincial centres and even a derelict island fortress at the mouth of Copenhagen harbour have been converted into temporary hostels for the growing Middle Eastern refugee population.

Libel trial general taken ill

New York (AP) – Retired General William Westmoreland was ill with backache yesterday, forcing an interruption in his $120m (about £100m) libel suit against the CBS television network.

"We don't believe it's serious", his lawyer said. "I got a call saying he was in serious pain and couldn't walk." General Westmoreland, who commanded US forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968, says he was defamed by a 1982 broadcast.

Mother wants to see Agca

Ankara (AP) – The mother of the convicted papal assailant Mehmet Ali Agca says she wants to visit her son in Rome.

The semi-official Anatolia New Agency quoted her as saying that she will write to the Turkish Prime Minister seeking permission for her trip.

Four expelled

Bonn – Romania has ordered the expulsion of four members of the West German Embassy in Bucharest. The move is seen as retaliation for the recent expulsion of five Romanian diplomats from Bonn after charges that they had planned to kidnap or kill Romanian exiles.

Baron missing

Hong Kong (Reuter) – Chinese and Taiwanese rescuers are searching for Baron Arnaud de Rosnay, aged 38, a French nobleman who has not been seen since he left southern China on Saturday to windsurf across the Taiwan Strait on a 12-ft sailboard.

Shorter lunch

Peking (AP) – Say goodbye to the two-hour lunch break, the Chinese Government told all Peking office workers yesterday in a directive to improve efficiency. The work day will end an hour earlier to make up for the loss of a lunchtime hour.

Eraser danger

Brussels (Reuter) – The European Bureau of Consumer Unions called for a ban by the European Community on fancy rubber erasers that look like confectionery and could endanger children.

1,000-year city

Moscow (Reuter) – Soviet archaeologists have discovered the remains of 1,000-year-old silver mining city amid the towering peaks of the Pamir mountains in central Asia, Tass reported.

Zaire arrest

Kinshasa (Ruter) – The commander of Zaire's army detachment in the southern town of Moba, held by rebels for 48 hours earlier this month, is to face a court-martial for gross negligence.

هكذا من الأصل

Corruption nettle remains to be grasped as Hawke heads for election victory

From Alan Hamilton, Melbourne

With only three days' campaigning left before the Labour Government expects an easy return to power in the Australian general election the Prime Minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has largely succeeded in keeping the issue of crime and corruption in the government, judiciary and business out of the public debate.

Yesterday, the Prime Minister was busily denying that Australian journalists' telephones were tapped generally, although he still refused to confirm or deny a specific allegation that conversations by Mr Brian Toohey, editor of the *National Times*, a respected political weekly, had been listened into.

Mr Andrew Peacock, leader of the Liberal-National opposition, has consciously spiked his guns since realizing that his now celebrated gibe across the floor of the federal Parliament, that Mr Hawke was "a little crook", has probably cost him more votes than any utterance he has made since.

Even during Monday night's television debate between the two leaders, Mr Peacock refused to elaborate on his veiled references to the fact that there was something rotten in the state of New South Wales, where Mr Hawke's Australian Labour Party has its main power base.

But there is ample evidence to suggest that the problem will not go away, and that if Mr Hawke is returned on Saturday there will be some particularly virulent nettles awaiting his grasp.

The first is the case of a federal judge, Mr Justice Lionel Murphy. An all-party Senate committee reached an inconclusive result in its investigation into whether he had attempted to pervert the course of justice in a conspiracy case involving a Sydney solicitor, Mr Morgan Ryan. The Federal Attorney General, Mr Ian Temby, has now indicated that a decision on whether to pursue the case, of the judge will not be made "for some time".

Within the past few days, however, Judge John Foord, a New South Wales district judge, has been charged with attempting to pervert the course of justice in the same case.

Simultaneously, although not connected with the same case, Mr Rex Jackson, the former New South Wales Minister in Charge of Prisons, has appeared in court charged with conspiracy to release three prisoners well before their sentences were complete. The Crown Prosecutor has alleged that Mr Jackson took substantial bribes in order to pay gambling debts. A solicitor and two businessmen are jointly charged with conspiring to pay the bribes to Mr Jackson.



As a further embarrassment to Mr Hawke, a questioner during Monday night's televised debate alleged that Mr Paul Landa, the New South Wales Attorney General who died of a heart attack at the weekend, had been anxious to leave state politics because of the corruption. Mr Hawke stonewalled the suggestion, and said he had every confidence in the state government.

The second big corruption allegation, which is temporarily dormant but with which Mr Hawke will be obliged to deal sooner or later, involves Mr Kerry Packer, the Australian businessman, media tycoon, and promoter of world series cricket.

Mr Packer, codenamed "the Goanna" after an Australian lizard, has strenuously denied allegations by the now wound-up royal commission on organized crime headed by Mr Frank Costigan, a Melbourne QC, that he was involved in a string of extremely serious crimes.

Mr Packer has remained resolutely silent since issuing a strongly-worded denial several weeks ago, but the Federal Director of Public Prosecutions told *The Times* yesterday that it would be some time before his office and the Government decided whether to pursue the allegations or to drop them and finally clear Mr Packer's name.

The powers of the Costigan commission have been transmuted into a new and permanent National Crimes Commission, but opposition politicians say it has no teeth, and insufficient powers to pursue cases.

There have been other, less successful, attempts to discredit Mr Hawke during the campaign, some of his opponents are still worrying away at the $1,000 (£833) Mr Hawke had stolen from his room at the Boulevard Hotel in Sydney. No one has explained why he should not have been carrying such a sum of money, but there have been attempts to link it with Mr Hawke's admission that his daughter had been a heroin addict.

Last week, right-wing nationalist politicians in Queensland, their main power base, tried to claim that Mr Hawke and the Federal Treasurer, Mr Paul Keating, had been involved in a bizarre fiddle to sell Australian trawlers to Saudi Arabia using Government funds. The evidence was said to have come from papers found in a Watergate-style break-in at the office of an estate agent in Cairns, Queensland, but no proof has been offered.

Mr Ian Sinclair, the National Party leader and a right-wing politician with a reputation for conducting head-kicking vendettas against political opponents, has been consistently asking in recent days why Mr Hawke's own past, particularly when he was leader of the ACTU, Australia's equivalent to the TUC, has not become an election issue.

Mr Sinclair's case has been somewhat diminished by his own starring role in an interview in *Playboy* magazine in which he discussed his former relationship with a Sydney businesswoman, Ms Glen-Marie North.



Mr Justice Murphy: Decision awaited




Mr Packer: Silence after denial

From dialogue to confrontation

Stern Slav steers strict line

In the second of three articles on the developing style of Pope John Paul II, Peter Nichols reports from Rome.



An aspect of the Vatican, frequently overlooked, is that it is as much a weather-vane as the rock it claims to be. Individual popes and even the administrative machine itself reflect with a certain sensitivity the atmosphere of the times.

This Pope has radically changed Rome's approach to the Communist world. John XXIII, who called the Second Vatican Council and can be said to have refounded a modern papacy, lived at a time when hope in international affairs was allowable. He was briefly on the international scene with Kennedy and Khrushchev. He succeeded in persuading the Soviet authorities to send Russian Orthodox observers to the council. In its turn, the council was not allowed to become an anti-communist platform. This was in keeping with John XXIII's character and conviction that the Church should show a "perfect neutrality" in worldly matters.

Paul VI, who followed him, applied diplomatic techniques to maintain and expand the opening which John had made. John Paul II is very aware of being the first Slav Pope in history and from the beginning of his pontificate has sought to demonstrate that European unity must include Eastern Europe.

Inevitably this has led him openly to challenge the communist position and, if he has succeeded in giving fresh heart to the remaining Catholics in the East, he has at the same time totally changed the papacy's stance to that of an adversary.

This development could arguably be said to depend more on the international situation than on the Pope's Slav origin, just as the more hopeful times in the past could have been due to the diplomatic experiment in dialogue, begun in Khrushchev's day.

And that raises the question of whether John Paul II's handling of the Church's own internal affairs, with a hand so much heavier than that of his predecessors, is due to him or to the more autocratic temper of the moment. Surely one part of what some people see to be a complete departure from the council is due more to his personality than to his own thinking.

The clearest recent clash between the council's teachings and the Pope's actions is seen in the response to his decision to allow the use under certain conditions of the Tridentine Mass which had been superseded by the new Mass devised to follow the council's requirements.

Many of the bishops had news of this important move from the newspapers. Official letters followed later. The news came a matter of weeks before an important and long-planned meeting here of representatives of national episcopal conferences throughout much of the Catholic world to review the very problem of the application of the council's decree on the liturgy. In this case a public protest was made. Representatives of 32 national conferences of bishops from English-speaking countries expressed the "grave concern, regret and dismay" with which they received the news of the official letter.

The principal reason for this remarkable but little publicized protest was that "the concession appears to be a movement away from the ecclesiology of the Second Vatican Council". At the same time it "seems to demonstrate a lack of consideration for all those who, at great personal cost, and with great difficulty, did in fact accept the liturgical reform and who, in time, wholeheartedly embraced the desires of the council . . ." These bishops called on the Pope to issue a "strong statement reaffirming the work of all those engaged in liturgical renewal according to the principles of Vatican II". On this specific issue at least, the "orphans of the council found a voice to express their fears.

Tomorrow: Papal power



Poles together: Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Poland's Primate, is embraced by the Pope on arrival at the Vatican for an audience yesterday.

Hijackers granted asylum in Ethiopia

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

Dissident Somalis, who hijacked a Somali Airlines Boeing 707 soon after it left Mogadishu last Saturday on a flight to Jiddah, gave themselves up at Addis Ababa airport yesterday and accepted an offer of political asylum in Ethiopia.

They had earlier threatened to blow up the aircraft, with more than 100 passengers still on board, if the Somali Government did not pardon seven young Somalis awaiting execution for consorting with the underground Somali National Movement, and free 13 political detainees, including several former ministers.

The three Somali Army officers, led by Captain Adan Durham, who staged the hijack had guns and explosives on the plane. They were joined by two other Somalis who were among the passengers, but it was not clear whether those two knew of the hijack plan before it took effect.

Somalia had refused to consider the demands of the hijackers, and said it would hold Ethiopia responsible for any harm done to the hostages or the plane. It condemned the demands of the hijackers as blackmail.

However, intense political consultations, with the Italian Government providing a link between Addis Ababa and Mogadishu, produced a better atmosphere after the hijackers had postponed their deadlines several times. There are no diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Somalia, which are intensely hostile to each other.

The key point which resolved the crisis was apparently a Somali undertaking not to execute the seven youths. Assurances to that effect were given to the Italian Ambassador in Mogadishu, who relayed them to Addis Ababa.

Women and children were allowed to leave the aircraft soon after it landed at Addis Ababa on Saturday. Th pilot and copilot, and a security guard who was wounded when the hijack took place, were also allowed to leave.

But the remaining 103 passengers, including two Italians and an American, were held in considerable discomfort, although food, water and medicines were supplied by the Ethiopian authorities.

Diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and Somalia were broken off in 1977 when Somali troops moved into the Ogaden region of Ethiopia in support of ethnic Somalis there who were demanding secession to Somalia.

Somalia withdrew its forces in 1978, after suffering a heavy defeat at the hands of Ethiopian troops backed by Cuban forces. Fighting on the border broke out again last year after dissident Somali groups, backed by Ethopian troops, seized two border areas.

Border shooting delays Korean economic talks

From David Watts Tokyo

Friday's shooting on the border between the two Koreas has delayed the next contact between North and South. North Korea yesterday postponed talks on economic cooperation which were to have been held next week and proposed a date in the new year.

North Korea's deputy Minister of Trade, Mr Li Sung Rok, used the North-South telephone hotline to tell his Southern counterpart, Mr Kim Ki Hwan, of the decision.

Pyongyang is demanding the return of a defector, and yesterday hinted that the South should make some concession as a prelude to the talks taking place next year.

Israeli jets attack Palestinian base in southern Lebanon

From Robert Fisk Beirut

For the first time since the coalition government of Mr Shimon Peres took office in Israel, Israeli jets launched an air raid into Lebanon yesterday, with a brief but apparently effective strike against a Palestinian guerrilla base just behind the Syrian front lines in the Bekaa valley.

Up to six F15 and F16 fighter-bombers strafed and rocketed an area near the village of Qab Elias, where the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine has a base. At least seven men, including five guerrillas and two civilians, were killed.

Eleven people, all reported to be guerrillas, were wounded in the raid, and witnesses spoke of fires raging around Qab Elias. They also said that Syrian anti-aircraft guns opened up on the Israeli jets, an event later confirmed by the Syrian Army command in Damascus, which claimed that its gunfire had "driven the planes southwards".

In fact, the Syrian artillery that regularly fires on the Israelis is positioned in the Metn hills east of Beirut, above which Israeli jets alwasy fly in a narrow corridor towards the Bekaa.

Lebanese authorities assume that the air raid was in reprisal for the two Katyusha rockets that landed inside Israel on Monday after being fired from Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon. The prevention of such attacks on Galilee was the stated reason for the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, an assault that has now cost the lives of 603 Israelis.

In southern Lebanon yesterday two Palestinians were murdered, allegedly for collaborating with Israeli occupation authorities, while on the coastal highway south of Beirut a French soldier of the United Nations force in Lebanon was wounded by unidentified gunmen.

He was travelling with four colleagues in a white UN Jeep, which was flying the UN flag.

In west Beirut, meanwhile, Lebanese troops of the largely Shia Muslim Sixth Brigade continued to patrol the streets on the second day of the Government's security plan, which is eventually intended to include southern Lebanon. While armed militiamen were not in evidence, unarmed militiamen, discreetly dressed in jeans and T-shirts, stood around their former checkpoints to watch the Army.

In private the gunmen of Beirut are expressing their own guarded confidence in the security plan. The Muslim militias believe that a Lebanese Army move south will help to bring about an Israeli withdrawal. But in east Beirut the Christian Phalangist militia are still expressing doubts.

Mr Massoud Ghawi, the official spokesman for the "Lebanese Forces" – the combination of Christian militiamen in the east – expressed reservations about the Sixth Brigade's capability of controlling west Beirut.

The real fear of the Christians, however, is that the security plan contains no political guarantees, and south of Beirut it is the Christians who need guarantees.

ZANU men beaten to death

Harare (AFP) – Two leading officials of the ZANU Mwenje opposition party have been found beaten to death near the town of Masvingo, the Government confirmed here yesterday.

Shangwa Mangwengwe, the party's national organizing secretary, and James Magura, the party's national youth advisor, were found with their arms broken and multiple injuries on November 15, according to a police report. They had gone to the area to seek the release of party members detained by police.

Township death

Johannesburg – A boy aged seven was killed and a youth aged 15 was wounded in shooting incidents on Monday in the African township of Sharpeville, 40 miles south of here, police said yesterday.

Slick kills birds

Goerlev, Denmark (Reuter) – Hundreds of sea birds have been killed by a three-mile oil slick off the west coast of Zealand, the worst oil pollution in Danish waters for five years.

$1bn drug haul

Yucca, Arizona (AFP) – Four men were charged with possession of 1,500lb of high-grade Peruvian cocaine worth an estimated $1bn, the largest haul in Arizona's history.

Formula for contacts with East

By Henry Stanhope
Diplomatic Correspondent

Two former prime ministers, Mr Edward Heath and Mr James Callaghan, yesterday backed a new international plan for a more constructive, lasting relationship between East and West.

Flanked by Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democratic Party, Mr Elliot Richardson, a former United States Defence Secretary, and the historian Lord Bullock, they appeared as cosignatories of an Aspen Institute Group statement, copies of which have been sent to President Reagan, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Sir Geoffrey Howe and the Soviet ambassadors in London and Washington.

One of its proposals is for a strategic panel of top Soviet and American delegates to oversee arms control.

Another suggestion is for a series of crisis control centres to provide instant communication between the nuclear powers in order to forestall nuclear war.

Other policies endorsed by the study include a declaration on the "no early use" of nuclear weapons, multilateral arms control, an early start to talks to prevent Star Wars and the improvement of Nato's conventional forces to raise the nuclear threshold.

But as Mr Callaghan pointed out in chairing yesterday's press conference, the purpose of the Aspen report is to seek a more stable relationship with the Russians across the entire spectrum of political, economic, commercial and educational fields.

Its timing was significant too, he said, coming as it did just before the Geneva meeting between Mr George Shultz the US Secretary of State, and Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, to initiate a new era in arms control.

Few reports can have had a more illustrious list of backers. Other former world leaders among the signatories – who have also held press conferences in New York, Tokyo, Rome and Bonn – include Herr Helmut Schmidt of West Germany, Mr Pierre Trudeau of Canada and a rich selection of world figures including Mr Robert MacNamara, Mr Cyrus Vance and Sir Nicholas Henderson, British Ambassador to Washington during the Falklands war.

Bonn refuses to accept sea resources treaty

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

After weeks of argument, the Bonn Cabinet yesterday decided not to sign the Law of the Sea Convention because it is seen as being against West German economic interests. The West German government said it would not oppose approval of the convention by the European Community.

West Germany joins Britain and the United States in opposing the contentious international treaty, which is intended to regulate exploitation of the sea's resources and seabed mining. Six community countries have signed, and a total of 138 states have given their approval, many more than the 60 needed for ratification next month.

The issue became a point of conflict between Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, who was in favour of signing, and his Cabinet colleagues.

The three coalition parties argued long over the matter, with the chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl, being pressed by Christian Democrats to take a hard line against curbs on seabed mining and the compulsory sharing of seabed technology with Third World countries. Herr Genscher argued that only after signing would Bonn be in a position to improve the convention terms.

Unity call by widow of Aquino

From Keith Dalton
Manila

More than 8,000 people sang "Happy Birthday" and carried food parcels for the poor and for political prisoners to a rally yesterday marking what would have been the fifty-second birthday of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader killed 15 months ago.

Mrs Corazon Aquino, widow of the former senator, said opposition unity was more crucial than ever before, because of reports that the health of President Marcos was failing.

A single and acceptable opposition candidate was needed to stand for election against Mr Marcos or whoever the ruling party chose, Mrs Aquino told the crowd.

She told reporters that Mr Marcos, aged 67, may not live to fulfil his pledge to run for another six-year term in presidential elections in 1987. Mr Marcos, who has not been seen in public for 13 days, was rumoured to have undergone a kidney or heart operation. But his physician said the President was being treated for "early signs" of influenza.

Aquino was commonly regarded as the man most likely to succeed Mr Marcos before he was assassinated in August last year moments after he arrived home to head the opposition campaign in parliamentary elections.

He had spent three years in self-imposed exile

Rallying point: Corazon Aquino, widow of the murdered opposition leader, addressing yesterday's meeting.

Quebec party loses again

From John Best, Ottawa

The beleaguered Parti Québécois Government of Quebec has lost another by-election, its twenty-second successive defeat since it first won power eight years ago.

Monday's convincing victory of the Liberal candidate, Mr Jean-Francios Viau, over Mr André Boulerice was in the Montreal riding of St Jacques.

Five ministers have resigned in the past week over a position taken by Mr René Lévesque, Quebec's Premier, that his party should shelve the independence issue in the provincial election expected late next year.

The Liberals retained St Jacques with 48 per cent of the vote against 41 per cent for the ruling party.

Uruguay's President-elect

Difficult transition period will test political skills

From Douglas Tweedale, Montevideo

Señor Julio Maria Sanguinetti, whose centre-right Colorado Party comfortably won Sunday's election in Uruguay, is regarded by Western diplomats and wide cross-section of local observers as the man best qualified to lead the country through the difficult period of economic crisis and political turmoil which lies ahead.

A 48-year old lawyer who is an avid football fan and an art collector, Señor Sanguinetti will have his considerable political skills tested during the transition from military to civilian rule. Campaigning under the slogan "A Change in Peace", Señor Sanguinetti persuaded voters to accept his view that it will take responsible leadership to consolidate the fledging democracy that is to be inaugurated, next March

Although Señor Sanguinetti won a convincing personal victory, he will have to face a parliament divided into at least three factions. And while nearly 40 per cent of voters supported the Colorado Party's moderate approach, a significant number cast their ballots for the Blanco Party candidate, Señor Alberto Zumaran, or the third-placed Frente Amplio (Broad Front) representative, Dr Juan José Crottogini. Both the Blancos and the Frente Amplio advocated more confrontational attitudes to the departing military than did Señor Sanguinetti.

Observers agree that a "government of national unity", or at least some kind of workable coalition in Parliament, will be crucial if the obstacles the new Government will face are to be surmounted.

Much will depend on the attitude of the Blanco Party, and that in turn will depend on its imprisoned leader, Señor Wilson Ferreira Aldunate. The Supreme Court was scheduled to review the charges against him, and diplomatic sources speculated that he could be released within a few days.

The Blancos and the leftwing Frente Amplio are likely to put pressure on the Colorado administration to prosecute military officers responsible for human rights violations. Sources close to the military say that political persecution could provoke a violent reaction from "certain sectors" of the armed forces.

With almost 20 per cent of the vote, be Frente Amplio has established itself as a force to be reckoned within Uruguayan politics. Señor Sanguinetti will have to try to include some of its leaders in his Government.

But the most serious problem may be the economy. A four-year-old recession has crippled Uruguayan industry and reduced real wages to 50 per cent of their 1973 level. Unemployment stands at 15 per cent, and the new Government will probably face labour unrest.

Nigerian editor detained for criticizing minister

By Kenneth Mackenzie

The editor of a leading Nigerian newspaper, the *National Concord*, has been held in detention for the past 13 days because of an article criticizing the Ministry of Information.

This is the latest of several incidents showing growing tension between the press and the government of General Muhammadu Buhari, which seized power on December 31.

The editor, Mr Duro Onabule, in a personal column published on November 9, criticized the Minister of Information, Group Captain Emeka Omeruah, because he had alleged that the whole Nigerian press had a "bring-down-the-government syndrome".

In a letter to *Concord*, the Information Ministry objects to the tone of the editor's comments, saying they were "lacking refinement". The article was said to be too personal, the minister's name being mentioned 19 times.

The phrase that the minister had a "neurotic obsession with his anti-press posture" caused offence.

The editor was called in for questioning by the Nigerian Security Organization immediately after the article appeared. He was released but called in again on November 16 and has not been seen since.

Two journalists from another respected Nigerian newspaper, the *Guardian*, are serving a year's imprisonment imposed under the Draconian Decree No 4.

This makes it an offence to publish an untrue statement about an official or a statement that brings an official into contempt.

Since shortly after the coup, prominent press commentators, Mr Tai Solarin and Mr Haroun Adamu, have been in detention without charge.

The Government is also exerting pressure on newspapers by not allowing them foreign exchange to buy newsprint. Government-owned and government-supporting newspapers have generous allocations, but privately-owned newspapers are forced to produce smaller papers than normal and restrict circulation.

THE ARTS

Television

Man's pet subject

Do owners grow to resemble their pets, or pets their owners – or do they meet in some amorphous kingdom, a fifth dimension of amity known only to those who live with animals? This was one of the few questions not answered by **Good Companions (Thames)**, which provided an otherwise exhaustive account of those tame animals which offer comfort, relaxation, amusement or companionship.

The last is perhaps the strongest, since pets often become the assuagers of human loneliness – to quote from Thomas Haynes Bayly: "Something to love, oh, something to love." And I suspect that they offer, too, an idealized version of qualities, like loyalty, and emotions, like affection, which seem so difficult or complicated in the human world – when, that is, they are present at all.

But it was suggested that pets represent even more than this, since they have become the image of a symbolic relationship in which mammal (human) reaches out to mammal across the great divide which normally separates us from the natural world. Certainly there seems to be an elective affinity between certain humans and animals, although Jilly Cooper was perhaps going a little far when she expained that, "Men who don't like animals aren't very good in bed." Better this, though, than that pets should be treated as aspects of human greed – there is nothing worse than a dog, for example, being paraded as a "status symbol".

This was a comprehensive if slightly conventional programme, which told you all you needed to know – and more – about the local dog or cat. But perhaps the best definition of the subject came from a vet who described pets as "not quite animal and not quite human" – an ostensibly uncomfortable state, but one which has obviously been of great benefit to both parties.

Peter Ackroyd

After auditioning 3,000 hopefuls, 17 lead performers were chosen by Sir Richard Attenborough for the film of *A Chorus Line*, now being shot on Broadway, where it all began. Report by **Sheridan Morley**

An innocent let loose on Broadway

It will be exactly ten years next May since *A Chorus Line* opened at the Public Theatre in New York; in the meantime it has of course become the longest-running Broadway musical, but it is now establishing another and even more remarkable record. The show is in fact simultaneously at two New York theatres only a few hundred yards apart: while the stage version continues at the Shubert, still playing some nights to standing room only, Sir Richard Attenborough has moved his cameras into the Mark Hellinger to make the movie, one which should be on general release a year from now and will be at a cinema only a block or so away from where the show will by then be well into its eleventh year.

But, though the screen rights were in fact sold soon after the Broadway opening, it has taken nine years and something approaching thirty million dollars to get the movie into production. Originally the choreographer-director Michael Bennett was himself to turn his show into a film – at least until he went out to Hollywood and so disliked what he found there that he returned sharply to Broadway vowing to have nothing to do with a studio. Then, between 1975 and 1983, other and more experienced film directors such as Mike Nichols and Sidney Lumet considered ways that the show could be "opened up" for the screen, until eventually it was decided that *Chorus Line* should be filmed in the place where it was set and about which it was written – a Broadway theatre.

At that point they approached Attenborough, hot from the *Gandhi* Oscars, a man who had of course started out in the theatre and whose first film as director had been the musical *Oh What a Lovely War!* As he sat in the stalls of the Mark Hellinger this month watching the dancers line up for yet another of the auditions that are at the heart of *Chorus Line*, I asked him if he had any doubts about whether so quintessentially theatrical a subject could be made to work on film.

"Yes, of course there are doubts, especially when the show is playing just across the block and we're tampering with something which has been proving its worth and its integrity over a decade. But that very fact determined us to keep it almost totally within the walls of a theatre: we use a few flashbacks but even in those the sound that you hear is the sound of the theatre as the auditions are going on. To erode that pressure-cooker feeling would have been dotty: the atmosphere and the continuing dynamic of people under pressure, trying to get a job in a show, has to be maintained. The idea of going out into open fields in Texas just because one of the kids in the show had been a drum major would have lost us all the excitement of what happens actually in the theatre during these two hours.

"Then people said to me, okay, if you're not going to broaden it, what can the cinema do for *Chorus Line*? and the answer is of course the close-up: sitting way back in the stalls you never get to see the look in these kids eyes as they suceed or fail. We can get close, and the kids don't have to do imitations of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir to be heard at the back of the gallery. We can show the beads of sweat, the trembling lips, the fear as well as the joy, of getting the job. That's what *Chorus Line* is about, in the end: it's about unemployment. Doesn't matter that they happen to be dancers; they could be experts trying to survive in any profession during a recession."

But this, surely, is a choreographer's rather than a director's film? "Yes, for the first twelve minutes that's true, Then we go into the basic storyline, however, and that's where my work starts and goes through right to the finale. Out of two hours, less than a quarter is actual dance; the rest is story after story about the dancers."

For Attenborough, this is a welcome return to the showbusiness he has always loved: "If you do a picture about Gandhi, or the one I'm doing next based on the Donald Woods book about Steve Biko, it's not enough just to make a good film. You have a massive political and journalistic responsibility, as well as the social awareness that, if *Gandhi* had been a disaster, nobody would have bothered to look at that subject again for maybe thirty years in the cinema. So you carry a terrible other burden, the burden of getting it right historically as well as artistically. In between those two major projects, the joy of getting back to something like this, which is really just about 17 divine kids, all of whom I'd like to adopt, is tremendous."

So how did he set about finding the right 17, few of whom are as yet exactly familiar, though one happens to be the daughter of Gwen Verdon and Bob Fosse while the star is Kirk Douglas's son Michael?

"We first of all auditioned three thousand dancers of all kinds, from jazz to ballet; then we took the best seven hundred of those, sent them to classes and re-auditioned them in groups of 12 once they'd learnt the routines. Then we film-tested 60 and out of those we got our 17, three of whom had played the show either on Broadway or on the road. But we could never have gone back to the original cast, most of whom now are well into their thirties. We were looking for teenagers, and we found one who runs a little dance academy in San Francisco and had never seen a camera in her life.

"There are also two new Marvin Hamlisch numbers, and of course the screenplay reflects the Eighties rather than the Seventies, with unemployment now very much more of a fear than it was when the show first opened. I've never worked on Broadway, and I didn't know much about the dance world, although in *Lovely War* we also of course had a small group of players, the Smith family, who went right through the film as a team rather like this one. But one of my very first jobs was in the back row of a musical at the Arts in the 1940s and I've always loved them: there's an intensity and a joy that you simply don't find anywhere else. You know what a ham I am: like all actors I'm convinced that when I'm demonstrating a scene I'm Baryshnikov, and, when this short, fat, balding sixty-year-old twit floats across the stage, the kindest thing the unit does is not to howl with laughter. But it's precisely because I'm such an outsider that I can see it clearly: when Len Deighton was choosing a director for *Lovely War* he said he wanted either somebody who knew everything about musicals or somebody who knew nothing, and in the end he chose me because I knew nothing. There's a lot to be said for innocence, even on Broadway."



Sir Richard Attenborough: 'When I'm demonstrating a scene . . . the kindest thing the unit does is not to howl with laughter'

Concerts

Philharmonia/Sinopoli

Festival Hall

Some of Giuseppe Sinopoli's concerts with the Philharmonia have made one wonder why he should have programmed music to which he seemed so little suited, but Monday evening was different. This was a fraught, uncomfortable and even at times deliberately unlovely performance of Mahler's Second Symphony, but it was cogently presented and magnificently played. Possibly Mr Sinopoli's career as a composer, or ex-composer, had something to do with it, since Mahler seems to have had something special to say to all succeeding creator-conductors, from Bernstein to Boulez, and from Webern to Klemperer. But though it may be a little early to be putting Mr Sinopoli in that company, there can be no doubt of his conviction in putting forward a view of the "Resurrection" Symphony that was, quite simply, Resurrectionless.

In retrospect, this was intimated from the first. What spoke loudest in the opening movement were the passages where the music suddenly finds itself without any avenues of escape: the moments where the song of the strings is killed by march rhythm, and most of all, of course, the repeated dissonances at the climax, here brutally hammered. By taking Mahler's markings to the edge of the absurd exaggeration, Mr Sinopoli gave a strong profile to everything that is barbaric and nihilistic in this movement, and also in the third, whose calm flow was the thinnest veneer.

It was still a surprise that the second movement should have been so much more grey than graceful, and an even greater shock when the alto song was utterly drained of warmth. Strings and brass played with the minimum of vibrato and the maximum of detachment between notes, offering not warm, enfolding support to the soloist but rather a lunar landscape across which she was obliged to tread. This was a bit hard on Brigitte Fassbaender, who could not sound radiant without ruining the effect, but who had this marvellous music in front of her. The sense of straining after numbness, though, was not inappropriate.

Lucia Popp did not have to make so many concessions in the finale, and soared gloriously, now joined by a Miss Fassbaender released from captivity. There was here no conflict with Mr Sinopoli's unshakably pessimistic approach, because he showed no sign whatsoever of being on the way towards some vision of heaven. The Philharmonia Chorus were kept quiet, their words often barely more than a hum, until this meandering finale just happened upon golden E flat major. Then there was noise and splendour indeed, but Mr Sinopoli had made sure we knew it was only an artificial paradise.

Paul Griffiths

Songmakers' Almanac

Wigmore Hall

"Such the tenor man told When he had grown old"; and such, in the words of Hardy, Auden, Michelangelo, and the notes of Purcell, Britten, Schubert, was the theme of homage paid on Monday night by the Songmakers' Almanac to Sir Peter Pears.

The nature of Sir Peter's artistry has, of course, directly, indirectly and profoundly nurtured the musico-literary work of the Almanac themselves. Connexions and resonances proliferated as the history of song and its performance in England was revealed in the biographical thread running through the programme. In a reference to John Ireland, for instance, and in Richard Jackson's fine performance of his "My true love hath my heart", we were reminded of the state of English song as Britten found it. Auden, said Sir Peter (now on the platform, chatting to Graham Johnson), opened the doors for Britten; and we heard "Now the Great Bear and Pleiades" from *Peter Grimes*, sung with extraordinary expressive breadth by Anthony Rolfe Johnson.

It was Mr Rolfe Johnson, perhaps more than anyone, who focused attention on the qualities at the heart of Britten's work as creator and Pears's attributes as recreator: that of the regeneration of word in music. His rapt rendering of Britten's realization of "Tom Bowling", no less than his part, with Sarah Walker, in Canticle II, "Abraham and Isaac", proved the strength and vitality of the continuation of the line.

After the song years, the operas, the travel, came the tricky part of the evening. It was time for the overt public articulation and reception of heartfelt gratitude, and for envoi. Graham Johnson lifted things just clear of embarrassment – but enough had been said in the music alone. After the Phaedrus monologue from *Death in Venice* ("the work nearest to me and which brings me nearest to Ben"), Sir Peter recited over Graham Johnson's piano accompaniment the text of Schubert's "Farewell to the world".

Hilary Finch

Pop music

Alison Moyet

Dominion

When the clamour surrounding 1984's big brothers of pop has died down and the audits are taken, the smart money suggests that two of the year's best-selling discs will be by Sade and Alison Moyet, artists who have concentrated on vocal entertainment rather than image manipulation.

Ms Moyet – Alf to her friends – has enjoyed a good year. Since parting amicably from Vince Clarke and their band Yazoo, her solo career has spawned two hits and a sell-out tour, culminating in three nights at the Dominion. It is easy to find reasons for Alf's popularity. Her unpretentious personality is allied to a vocal prowess which is enhanced by her considerable soulful range. Yet despite the rapport she finds with her fans the current show veers towards safety when it should be inspired.

The fault may lie in the choice of band, one drawn from the traditional R & B or disco lines of four piece plus horns and backing singers trio. Such a set up did wonders for the Eurythmics' live set and ought to have benefited Alf's larger-than-life presence.

But to say these musicians lacked flair would be an understatement; they dragged themselves along with the elegance of a session group playing by rote, forgetting niceties of dynamics and tension. When Alf assumed a solo spotlight for Billie Holiday's emotionally charged "That Old Devil Called Love" their shortcomings were thrown into perspective. By contrast the hits, "Love Resurrection" and "All Cried Out" were rhythmically stodgy. The only major excitement occurred when the singer injected some James Brown funk into "Situation" and offered a sparkling version of Marvin Gaye's "Hitch Hike".

Encores of Yazoo's excellent "Only You" and "Don't Go" emphasized a yearning for their original settings; Paul Ellis, the keyboards player, tried gamely but was no match for Vince Clarke's understanding of the songs' nuances. It may seem churlish to expect an artist to aspire to something now past but I left feeling strangely dissatisfied and wondering what's it all about, Alf?

Max Bell

Theatre

Extremities

Duchess

The opening of William Mastrosimone's play is pure nightmare. Early morning in a New Jersey farmhouse. A girl puts down her coffee to go out and deal with a wasp. A man walks in, knowing she is alone, and slams her into submission on the floor: at which point she grabs the wasp spray and fires into his eyes.

Having aroused your maximum detestation for the rapist, the play then goes into reverse and tests your sympathy for the victim who chains him up in the fireplace, beats him, tortures him with lighted matches and douses him with petrol, threatening to burn him alive and bury him in the garden. When her two friends return from work, she has a cast-iron case for murder. As there is no mark on her body, a court may acquit her attacker; even if he is jailed, she will always go in dread of his revenge.

The logic is unanswerable, but we are still less than half way through, and instead of letting his herione get on with the job, Mr Mastrosimone allows the party to sit around discussing what to do next. Once the frenzied energy subsides into schematized debate between the homicidal Marjorie and her companions – one a welfare-worker, the other a former rape victim – the play also sits down and leaves you feeling that you, too, have just been violated.

Nothing is easier than to raise an audience's heartbeat with the sight of brutality, particularly if it satisfies the appetite for revenge. Mr Mastrosimone is well up to performing that simple task. But the real ugliness of the piece begins after the opening brutalities are over, when Mr Mastrosimone expects you to pay attention to chunks of legal and humanitarian argument while the battered rapist lies moaning in the fireplace slowly going blind.

Whenever he does speak, it is to lie, threaten, or otherwise inject the audience with a new shot of their original hatred. This might work if his captors were animated by any passion or sense of purposeful direction. But all they can do is check the implacable Marjorie with feeble, time-wasting protests which, in the circumstances, betray an astounding authorial insensitivity. Not only do all the arguments nose-dive but Mr Mastrosimone attempts a little light satire on the ineffectuality of social workers and the habit of girls to gossip in parking lots.

As Helen Mirren playes her, moodily nursing a claw hammer as she sits guard over her prey, bullying her friends into submission and cheerfully ramming a hunting knife into her (now sightless) enemy's genitals in a replay of the opening rape dialogue, Marjorie has landed a role she has been longing to play all her life. Kevin McNally dispatches the rapist with athletic sadism and gibbering exclamations of Roman Catholic terror, to which Robert Allan Ackerman's production adds an amplified wasp buzz.

Irving Wardle

Orphée

Upstream

A bizarre lunch party: a fashionable young woman, her poet husband who sits in front of her because he is not allowed to look at her (all right, that gives the game away), and their guardian angel courteously sipping his red wine in the guise of a glazier who comes daily to mend their broken windows. Jean Cocteau's play on the legend of Orpheus and Eurydice wears its irreverence like a green carnation

The Floorboards Theatre Company play *Orphée* with a grave delicacy which is impressive and, even if it stifles the knowing or silly laughter Cocteau meant to raise, also kills the giggles he did not want.

As a brief prelude, members of the company (mostly the small parts) recite, not always very convincingly, a devised combination of biographical material, tackle extracts and pieces from the *Plain-Chant* poems inspired by Cocteau's relationship with Raymond Radiguet, who died soon afterwards. This love poetry, such an odd mixture of graphic tenderness and self-conscious imagery, prefigures *Orphée's* obsession with death, the Muses, the poet's severed head, even the horse.

But, even by such association, the play does not generate enough poetic power to make up for its impression of datedness and rootlessness, once severed from its original context.

Carl Wildman's translation is neat and graceful, and particularly Chris Thomas *(Orpheus)* and Ben Bazell (the angel) have the soft poetic touch that stills mockery for the moment. And Sally Mortmore, correctly attired in a vivid pink evening gown, unnervingly impersonates a Death who arrives unsuspected and dons rubber gloves to cut the thread of life without emotion.

Anthony Masters

هكذا من الأصل

Why isn't there an Engineers' Corner in Westminster Abbey?

In Britain we've always made more fuss of a ballad than a blueprint.

Heaped more honours on our poets, statesmen and military heroes than our inventive geniuses.

But why?

It was our engineers 200 years ago who transformed this country into a mighty power.

It is our engineers we have relied on ever since for so much of our prestige and prosperity.

It is our engineers we turned to in the crisis of the war.

And it is our engineers we need just as desperately, today, if we are to survive as an industrial power.

To make the cars, the computers, the turbines and the telecommunications the world markets are crying out for.

But who would guess?

How many schoolchildren daydream of becoming great engineers?

How many parents encourage them to do so?

Why don't we put more emphasis on engineering in our universities and polytechnics?

Japan produces 10 times as many engineering graduates.

Why are our engineers paid less well than other professions?

They aren't in Germany, Sweden or the States.

Why do they so seldom rise to the top of industry o. Government, as they do in France?

Is it any wonder that we are short of professional engineers, and that our economy is feeling the effect?

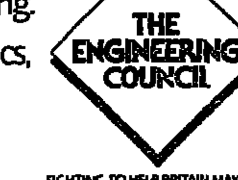
Last year was the first time since before the Industrial Revolution that we imported more manufactured goods than we exported.

It is a crisis – and The Engineering Council has been formed to tackle it.

To impress upon the City, the Government, educationalists and industry alike the importance of the profession, and to put more engineers where they belong.

In the schools, universities, polytechnics, factories, boardrooms, Parliament and Government.

Even in Westminster Abbey.



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Church leaders in Britain are criticizing the government, but in South Africa they're challenging the law

Power politics from the pulpit

The current debate in Britain about how deeply the Church should become embroiled in politics – fuelled by the speeches of *the Bishop of Durham* – has been heard in South Africa for many years. Bishop Desmond Tutu's appointment as the first black Bishop of Johannesburg and his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize which he will receive in Oslo on December 10 has focussed attention on the role of the churches there. MICHAEL HORNSBY reports from Johannesburg

At almost any point on the spectrum of the gradually sharpening struggle between Black nationalists and White nationalists in South Africa, from Bishop Desmond Tutu's "liberation theology" on the Black left to the dyed-in-the-wool apartheid of Dr Andries Treurnicht on the White right, a man of the cloth is as likely as not to be found at the heart of the fray, loudly claiming biblical sanction for his cause.

In October, a few days after learning that he had been awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, Bishop Tutu attended a service of thanksgiving at his local Anglican Church in Soweto, the sprawling African township *outside Johannesburg. In a short* address, he touched one of the most resonant chords of Black preaching – the deliverance of the Jews.

"We know that you are the God of Exodus. We know you are the God of freedom. We know that you will lead us out of oppression and injustice God. We know that you will lead us out of our Egypt and into the promised land of your freedom," he cried, and the small stone church vibrated with the ecstatic "Amens" of his colourfully-garbed congregation.

For the last three centuries, the same biblical imagery has sustained the Afrikaner Whites from whose rule Bishop Tutu and other Blacks are asking to be freed. For the one, the history of the Jews is a promise that God is on the side of the oppressed, however unjust present circumstances may seem, and for the other, an equally certain assurance that the *Volk* (people) will survive to fulfil their God-ordained mission.

When Mr P. W. Botha, the State president, and other ministers in the almost exclusively Afrikaner Government complain, as they regularly do, that Bishop Tutu and other turbulent priests are "meddling in politics", they are denying, or perhaps conveniently overlooking, much of their own history, and a tradition of intimate Church-State relations going back to the days of the early Boer Republics.

The first Dutch settlers to arrive at the Cape in the mid-17th century, came from a Holland that had been nourished on the stern doctrines of John Calvin, who taught his followers *that they were a chosen people.*

In 1857, the Cape Synod of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK), as the Dutch Reformed Church here is known, took a fateful step, deciding that, though neither desirable nor scriptural, services for Whites and Blacks should be held in separate buildings because of "the weakness of some" – that is, those Whites who would not take Communion with Blacks.

Segregated congregations became the rule, leading to separate "daughter" churches of the NGK: the Sendingkerk (Mission Church) for mixed-race Coloureds, founded in 1881; the NGK in Afrika, for Africans, and the Indian Reformed Church.

When the National Party came to power in 1984 on a wave of Afrikaner nationalism, led by a former NGK Dominee (Minister), Dr D F Malan, the Church thus already provided the model and rationale for apartheid.

Today, the Dutch Reformed family of churches commands the allegiance of nearly 50 per cent of the country's 4,600,000 Whites. Nearly two million Africans and Coloureds also share their faith *(see table).*

Although the social influence of the NGK *has weakened over the last 30* years, as more and more Afrikaners have moved from the conservative countryside to the towns, it remains strong. Cinemas are still closed on Sundays, though films with explicit sex scenes are now generally only lightly censored. Magazines like *Playboy* and *Penthouse*, however, are banned. Gambling is *illegal*, and it is *only in the last few years that sports* events have been permitted on the Sabbath.

Politically, the monolithic identity of the NGK with the ruling National Party, which prevailed for three decades after 1948, was deeply fissured by the breakaway in early 1982 of a group of government MPs under Dr Treurnight, a Cabinet Minister and, like Dr Malan, a former *Dominee*, to form the extreme right-wing Conservative Party, which is bitterly opposed to the extension of the franchise (albeit on a segregated basis) to the Indian and coloured minorities under the new-constitution introduced this year. Many NGK clerics support the new party.

On the left, the NGK has always had its courageous rebels, like Dr Beyers Naude, who emerged last September from seven years as a "banned" person. Apart from being severely restricted in his movement, he could not be quoted or take part in any political or social activity.

He and some 30 other White priests have left the NGK and joined its African daughter-church, becoming outcasts in their own communities. The brave defiance of lone whites, however, has had much less impact on the NGK than the revolt within its Coloured daughter, the Sendingkerk. This Church's Assessor, its second highest official, is the youthful Dr Allan Boesak, now the best known Black clergyman after Bishop Tutu.

In August 1982, at a meeting in Ottawa, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, which embraces some 70 million Protestants of Presbyterian and Congregational Churches around the world, chose him as its president, and also suspended the membership of the *NGK and the smaller NHK until such* time as they renounce apartheid. In September of that year, Dr Boesak was instrumental in getting the Sendingkerk's synod to pronounce apartheid a heresy.

These developments were probably behind the decision of the Western Cape Synod of the NGK in October of last year to reject apartheid "if in practice it means discrimination", to open church services in its region to all races, and to declare laws banning marriage and sex across the colour line incompatible with Christian ethics.

All the daughter churches have joined the multi-racial South African Council of Churches (SACC), which *represents some 12 million people*, 85 per cent of them black, in 18 denominations.

Under its general-secretary of the last six years, Bishop Tutu, who will give up the job when he becomes the first African Bishop of Johannesburg in January, the SACC has not only vigorously opposed apartheid but campaigned in support of foreign disinvestment and conscientious objection to military service.

The Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican Churches are the biggest groups in the SACC. The Roman Catholics, who had some difficulty establishing themselves in South Africa and were for a long time politically cautious, took the lead in the 1970s in opening church schools to all races and now have the biggest African following. The Catholic Archbishop of Durban, the most Revd Denis Hurley, faces trial next February for accusing the Army and Police of atrocities in Namibia.

Clergymen, both Black and White, have supported the recent troubles in Sharpeville and other townships along the River Vaal. Soon after the first outbreak of violence on September 3 they formed a "solidarity committee" to try to fill the vacuum left by the popular rejection of government-sponsored town councils. Several are now in jail for their pains, along with more than 200 trade unionists, teachers, students and others.

Millions of Blacks belong to some 3,700 independent African faiths, which mix modern Christian revivalism with traditional African ancestor worship, and have severed *links with* the missionary European churches.

Some of these sects promise justice only in the afterlife. Thus followers of the Nazarite Church in Natal worship a Black Messiah who guards the gates of Heaven and turns away Whites on the grounds that they "cannot rule twice".

For vast numbers of Blacks and Whites, religion is an inseparable part of their lives. "One of the basic traditions of Calvinism is the lordship of Jesus Christ: this means that there is no area of life where Christians do not have a duty to establish His Lordship and to see that the demands of the Kingdom of Heaven are met," Dr Boesak says in response to the charge that he is a "political priest". No White "Dominee" would disagree with a syllable of that statement. When it comes to interpreting God's purpose, however, the disagreement is still profound.



Taking the plunge: beach baptisms



Preachers of politics: (top) Bishop Tutu; (left) white woman blessed by a black priest; (right) Dr Boesak; (above) Dr Naude

	Dutch Reformed Churches	Roman Catholic	Methodist	Anglican	Lutheran
WHITES	2,068,340 (45.7)	393,640 (8.7)	414,080 (9.1)	456,020 (10.1)	39,620 (0.8)
COLOUREDS	678,380 (26.0)	264,820 (10.1)	140,120 (5.4)	351,480 (13.5)	95,640 (3.7)
INDIANS	3,940 (0.5)	21,160 (2.6)	4,320 (0.5)	8,900 (1.1)	1,140 (0.1)
AFRICANS	1,103,560 (6.5)	1,676,680 (9.9)	1,554,280 (9.2)	797,040 (4.7)	698,400 (4.1)
TOTAL	3,854,220 (15.5)	2,356,300 (9.5)	2,112,800 (8.5)	1,613,440 (6.5)	834,800 (3.4)

Source: 1980 census. The figures in brackets show the percentage of each population group in each church. The total figures show the following of each church, with percentage figures in brackets, of the total population.

moreover . . . Miles Kington

The jokers in my pack of postcards

A journalist who expresses doubt is like a girl who drops a glove; in both cases, gallant members of the public rush forward to help. Recently I asked where all the good postcards were, and also what the derivation of "gricer" was. Quantities of noble readers have rushed forward and I am now a wiser man.

Postcards, first. I have received further shipments of these desirable objects, notably from Michael de las Casas who, if I understand him rightly, runs three lines of postcards. Namely Real London, Real Ireland and Real Britain. All are excellent. I like the barn door in West Cork, *the fish shop in Bideford*, the six phone boxes in London. I was taken aback by the shot of the Portobello Road stallholder, as I had bought some green peppers from the very same man the day before.

I like the quirky postcards produced by George Blair for Mind's Eye, as this man has a sense of humour. His picture of Nelson's Column has no Nelson on top, only a huge pigeon. His picture of a London phone-box has a guardsman standing on duty outside it. And his picture of an astronaut on the moon shows him coming face to face with a Job Centre. Clever stuff with a pair of scissors, there.

I also like the black and white, more arty postcards by Francis Glibbery. His portrait of all the gays outside the Coleherne pub in Earls Court would look wonderful blown up, while his *picture of two* glum girls on Earls Court tube station in front of a big glamour fashion poster says all there is to say about glum girls and glamour fashion posters. Mr Glibbery, by the way, says he sells his cards for 10p to retailers who then reprice them at 30p or more. Good old capitalism.

But the letter which first reminded me that there is more, or rather less, to postcards than quality came from Martin Karmel, a member of the Boring Postcard Club. He and his friends send each other cards from all over the world, trying to outbore each other. It all started, he says, with a view of "The Cricket Pavilion, Tring". Excellent! Other outstandingly boring cards have been "The Convalescent Home, Otley, Rear View", "The Tennis Courts at Cromer" and "A General View of Old Sodbury".

This had me scrabbling in my drawer of postcards for a series of Chinese Communist cards I once bought, including "A Bend in the Red Canal", but before I could find them I received another letter, from Ben Phillips, who runs the Naff Postcard of the Year Contest with his friends.

Now, naff is a word we hear a lot these days but which has seldom to my satisfaction been defined, hovering as it does between kitsch and grotty. But to help me Mr Phillips had enclosed the top three entries this year both in the domestic and international classes. The three domestic high-flyers were of Southend, Hindhead and Loch Ness, and my heart went out immediately to the black and white picture of Beacon Hill Road, Hindhead, as it *contained less of interest in it* than any postcard I have ever seen.

There was a lamp post. There was a pavement. There was what seemed to be a public loo, half hidden by an uninteresting shrub. There was also a hole at the top, caused by one of Mr *Phillips's* drawing-pins, and I can honestly say that this was the most interesting thing on the card. But this seems to me to qualify for Mr Karmel's boring club: naff-wise, the Southend card won the day for its garish colour, and its total lack of composition and above all the man wearing a knotted handkerchief *in the foreground.*

Similarly the most boring one in the international section was undoubtedly the Danish card of the border at Rudbol. Picture if you can a grey road, some boring houses, and in the distance two cars, with policemen talking to their drivers. Add to that a girl in the road, blonde with very bad knees, and you have a very boring card. But for naffness I had to agree that the Zagreb picture of a loving couple surrounded by hearts and roses took the cake. He had a red nose, a gross blue shirt and badly pruned sideburns. She had a red nose, eye shadow applied with a shovel, and, protruding arm-pit hair. Poor old Zagreb.

But the best single card of all came from Margaret Evans of Spalding. It was an aerial view of Westminster, published by Thomas and Benacci, and printed in Italy. That probably explains why it has been printed the wrong way round, or reversed. Big Ben is on the left as you go on to the bridge, and *on the other side the GLC is on* the right, while the Surrey trains are coming into Waterloo from Kent. It is quite hypnotic.

And now I have not left myself with time for "gricer". Soon, I hope.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 507)

ACROSS
1 Portending (6)
4 Cut in two (6)
7 Mimic (4)
8 Protestor (8)
9 String plucker (8)
13 Lair (3)
16 First postwar PM (7,6)
17 Link (3)
19 Knock loose (8)
24 Excess (8)
25 Covet (4)
26 After dinner spirit (6)
27 Soup dish (6)

DOWN
1 Explosive projectile (4)
2 Low-cut (9)
3 Fourpence coin (5)
4 Trinket (5)
5 Ill (4)
6 Hag (5)
10 Faith articles (5)
11 Local tax (5)
12 Sailor (5)
13 Assiduity (9)
14 Require (4)
15 Rabbit tail (4)
18 Inactive person (5)
20 Cream (5)
21 Smallest (5)
22 Shock (4)
23 Praise song (4)

SOLUTION TO No 506
ACROSS: 1 Barred 5 Dice 8 Ephod 9 Unleash 11 Randomly 13 Main 15 Perfunctorily 17 Lame 18 Golconda 21 Silenus 22 Frisk 23 Drab 24 Rotten
DOWN: 2 Ashen 3 Rod 4 Double-crosser 5 Dolt 6 Chapati 7 Metropolis 10 Hanky-panky 12 Onus 14 Tore 16 Rambler 19 Naive 20 Knob 22 Fat

The author of Adrian Mole tells how she created a best-seller

Secret diary of Sue Townsend

Sue Townsend was nearly 30 when she finally plucked up the courage to confess the guilty secret that had dominated her life. "I've got something to tell you", she announced to her boyfriend, Colin, one evening. "I think I'm a writer."

For 15 years she had been scribbling away in secret, *writing poems, plays, short* stories, hiding them in a dozen different places, never revealing the ghastly truth to her parents, sisters, ex-husband, children or friends. "I really had an awful fear of showing anybody what I'd written. "I didn't know if I was any good."

For more than a year she has been in the best-seller lists with the soul-searching monologues of a pretentious little prig (her description) named Adrian Mole. It would be hard to imagine a more unlikely literary hero than this lugubrious *schoolboy* whose life revolves around his acne, his faithless parents and his undying love for his socially superior comprehensive school girlfriend, Pandora Braithwaite.

Yet *The Secret Dairy of Adrian Mole aged 13¾* has sold 80,000 copies in hard cover and almost a million and a quarter in paperback. It is still in the best-seller lists after 52 weeks – 21 of those at number one. Its sequel, *The Growing Pains of Adrian Mole*, went straight to the top of the hardback lists one week after publication and is now at number two having sold more than 300,000 copies in just over three months.

Adrian is set to make his West End debut (from December 12) bringing to life his adolescent hang-ups in a semi-musical of his secret diary that *Sue has adapted for the stage.*

When the show played in her hometown of Leicester recently, every seat for the nine-week run was sold out within two days and there were terrible scenes outside the theatre with people trying to fight their way in. In London, Wyndham's Theatre took £12,000 in advance bookings in the first 48 hours.

Sue, a whimsical 38, has spent a lifetime watching and listening. "Even as a child I always had the sense that life was rolling on and I was observing it but not actually taking part." She grew up with two younger sisters. Her parents, both bus conductors – "but clever enough to have been anything under different circumstances" – were avid readers.

Sue became addicted to books too and when she left school, just before her 15th birthday, she took jobs that allowed her to sit and read – in a dress shop, on a garage forecourt and in a hot-dog van.

She was 18 when she met the man she was to marry. Three children later, they were divorced. She then moved into a council house and took three *part-time jobs – working with* old people during the day, in a youth club in the evenings and as a waitress at weekends. It was at the youth club that she discovered the inspiration, for Adrian Mole.

"I was there so long that the kids regarded me a bit like they regarded the ping-pong table", she says. "They used to speak *quite frankly to each other*, always in cliches."

Despite strong pressure from her public and publisher, she has decided to leave the highly-lucrative Mole books alone for eight years because she wanted to do other things.

In the meantime, she is working on the stage version in which 16-year-old Simon Schatzburger plays Adrian. Sue picked him out immediately. "He was the only one out of 200 boys who wasn't chirpy and who had an air of mystery about him". She is also writing a six-part series about Mole for Thames Television.

Sue Townsend finds it difficult to come to terms with being rich and famous. She and Colin now live in an old vicarage on the outskirts of Leicester with their seven-year-old daughter *and Sue's three other children* who are 19, 16 and 14. With her first royalty cheque 18 months ago she bought an eight-seater Citroen, but has not yet found the time to learn to drive

Sally Brompton



Sue with Simon Schatzburger who plays Adrian Mole



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WEDNESDAY PAGE

The family fights back



Jeannette Kupfermann reveals the myths about divorce and discovers that, in spite of the growing pressures, the family unit remains just as strong

Whenever a marriage breaks up and children are involved the first thing the deserting husband or wife worries about is how the children will be affected. Yet research seems to suggest that only a few children show obvious signs of disturbance. Perhaps the greater and more obvious concern is shown by the stepparents in any "new" family.

A large survey in the United States estimated that as many as one in six children aged under 18 lived in stepfamilies, and that one in five children born in 1980 could expect to witness their parents' divorce before they were 16. If the remarriage rate remains steady, Britain will soon match America.

A study of stepchildren in Britain, carried out by the National Children's Bureau and published this year, showed that 38 per cent of children with stepfathers and 33 per cent of those with stepmothers lived in homes where there were four or more under 21s, compared with 25 per cent living with both natural parents.

The economic facts about stepfamilies are not clear-cut. They are less likely than one-parent families to be in a very low income bracket, which supported the theory that in every income group remarriage helps reverse the financial loss.

A recent study showed remarriage as the most effective way for single parents to recover their economic position, but other studies have found that the standard of living of remarried families was sometimes considerably lower than that enjoyed before divorce, especially when maintenance was being paid.

It is in middle-class stepfamilies that money problems seem to be perceived as greater, especially when there is a temporary drop in standards of living after separation and during the initial reconstitution of a stepfamily. Middle-class men make every effort to restore the standard.

Bob, a 51-year-old television director, who had lived in considerable luxury with his first wife and three children, felt obliged to take on extra, less desirable, commercial work to support his second wife and young baby. He did not want his second wife to work, although the first wife he was still supporting had worked part-time.

The deterioration of living standards is felt to be an additional failure, intensifying the pressures on the man in the upper-income bracket supporting two households.

The stepfamily's greatest problems seem to be in the roles and relationships which are influenced not only by the divorce that preceded the formation of the family and the children's and parents' widely differing perceptions of it, but also by society's expectations of what it sees as "normal".

The problems of the stepparent living away from the children will be different from those living with the children, and those living away can sometimes feel guilty. Pat Irons, a 31-year-old secretary, expressed this often ambiguous way the living-away stepparent feels.

She is married to an American, whose two children by his first marriage remained with their mother in the States: "I sometimes feel guilty that he's not with them – they're lovely kids. On the other hand, I feel resentment, too, that he can't put them entirely behind him."

Access is, of course, important to the non-custodial parent and is the only way to maintain a relationship between the children and both parents, but the visits can be difficult.

Custodial parents are criticized, and grievances aired, or alternatively the child is "bribed" with gifts and treats.

The child can become an instrument for each parent to prove he or she is the better one, that the other parent's care is inadequate and the cause of all the child's unhappiness. The child inevitably tries to maintain a mutually exclusive attitude towards both parents, and often becomes guilt-laden.

Access can also open up the channel for the child to manipulate the parents. Ruth Inglis writes in a recent book: "A nine-year-old boy visited his father on weekends and told him stories about the harsh treatment he was receiving from his mother. When he returned home to his mother, he told her about the idyllic existence of his father, leading her to believe that her son was being over indulged by his father.

"The parents developed exaggerated pictures . . . Each parent filed action in court complaining about the adverse influence of the other. When they were brought together and had an opportunity to obtain a more realistic picture of their son's role in exaggerating their concern, they dropped their complaints and established regular contact to discuss plans for their son. They had previously decided to avoid direct conversation. In effect, their son was trying to bring them together in the only way available to him."

The national study set out to test some old assumptions. Was there more deviance, poorer health, poorer examination

'Stepparents find that problems are worse with teenagers'

results and lower aspirations among stepchildren? There were adverse findings – but not as many as one might imagine – and most were associated with stepfather rather than stepmother families.

In stepfather families 19 per cent of boys had been taken to court at some time compared with eight per cent of those with natural parents; 20 per cent of boys from stepfamilies had dealings with the police or probation officers as opposed to nine per cent from unbroken homes. Boys with stepmothers were not likely to have had more frequent dealings with police, but those living only with their mother did.



The girls fared worst in stepmother families. Four times as many were likely to have dealings with the police than girls from unbroken homes.

As for school attendance, children in stepfather families – like those with lone mothers – were poorer attenders than their counterparts in unbroken families. Surprisingly, both boys and girls in stepmother families contained the largest proportion of very good attenders – 95 to 100 per cent.

Similarly, the study did not reveal any startling differences in health between stepchildren and those in other family variations. However, the differences that did emerge reinforce the pattern for adverse findings to be associated with the stepfather rather than the stepmother – boys with stepfathers tended to suffer disproportionately from upper respiratory infections, headaches and emotional problems.

The good news was that the adverse findings related every time to a minority and the great majority claimed to enjoy good relations with their stepparents.

One wonders if the negative features associated with stepfamilies might not become a self-fulfilling prophecy, and if it is not time to break the cycle by recognizing that stepfamilies have problems, but not to the extent we thought they had, and that many of them are of our own making.

Research does not break the myth entirely that divorce has the inherent power to make people unhappy and produce social disruption, but it does indicate that it is not necessarily inevitable.

For example, it was shown that most stepchildren's attitudes and aspirations for their own future marriage and family did not differ significantly from those of children from unbroken homes.

This confirms that we are holding on to unchanged models of marriage and the family despite considerable change. Society's ambivalence towards the breaking and remaking of families does not help. There is a total absence of guidelines for stepfamily relationships.

The 1975 Children Act embodies the discouragement of stepparent adoption and aims to avoid severing links between children and half their biological family.

But it provides no guidelines for the new "social" family. The role of stepparents is given no formal definition.

Stepparents will find, like natural parents, that the problems are worse if they are dealing with teenagers. One of the big events in a marriage is the arrival of a new baby. It often helps to cement the marriage but it also brings difficulties even if the first-family children live with the new family or not.

Helen James, who married an accountant with two teenaged children and now has a three-year-old daughter of her own, explains: "It is rather sad when the other two come to lunch to see just how much Ann wants to be like them. She talks about them nearly every day and tries to emulate them.

"The 16-year-old boy is polite but gives little in return. The 12-year-old, clearly upset that she is no longer Daddy's little girl, is obviously jealous. Her behaviour sometimes causes problems between me and my husband, who is naturally reluctant to concede that his daughter is behaving badly."

Mrs James found almost instant help when purely by chance she was able to talk alone to the children's stepfather. His experiences with the daughter were exactly the same. Perhaps both families were facing the problems of teenagers, not stepparenthood.

Statistics are not available but it seems that second marriages are as likely to fail as the first. The second marriage has the advantage of at least one partner's experience of failure. He or she will hope to avoid the same mistakes again. Perhaps the failures arise because society expects too much of everybody concerned.

WHERE TO GET HELP AND ADVICE

Family therapy and counselling services, widely available in America, are few and far between here, perhaps because we are less ready to acknowledge family problems and seek help for them.

The National Stepfamily Association, in Cambridge, where families can exchange experiences, was formed in 1983, but many are reluctant to join groups whose membership is based on something that may be regarded as a social failure.

American law increasingly takes the view that the best policy is adoption of the stepchildren. There are advantages. It is permanent, and spells security. It gives the stepchild the same status and rights as any natural child, and only fits the legal position to the actual in many cases. In Britain, the stepparent can take legal custody of the child using guardianship, but the child keeps its family ties, though the name may be changed in a separate action.

It is argued that adoption of a stepchild can create genealogical confusion, and identity problems – but one could also argue that non-adoption and ill-defined status can create social problems.

Schools can help if alerted to the growing numbers of children living in stepfamilies. But Anne Mitchell, an Edinburgh researcher whose book on children affected by divorce is to be published next year, says few parents inform the teachers. Some thought it was a private matter and no concern of the school; others were defensive, saying there was no problem. Parents do not trust teachers.

Only in the most sophisticated circles, and presumably where there has been a "good" divorce, or a fair time has elapsed, do first and second husbands and wives mingle.

The introduction of family courts and conciliation services is one answer to more amicable divorce. The Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service, which began in 1979 and is run by solicitors, offers an alternative to court for divorcing or divorced couples locked in financial and access disputes.

However, Gwyn Davis, of Bristol University's social administration department, who has been looking at the work of conciliation services both in Bromley and Bristol, says: "We have no hard evidence about the long-term success of conciliation."

Teachers, doctors, social workers and therapists are professionals who can monitor and help relieve distress. Doctors can refer the family to specialized services such as child guidance clinics, and departments of family and child psychiatry. Social workers too can help adults and children as they come into contact with many families with divorce problems.

Cracking the nut case



Shona Crawford Poole

Some greengrocers don't care for the customer who picks a nut from the display and opens it with a sharp crack of heel against pavement or food hall floor. It requires skill if you are wearing high or soft rubber heels and those lacking the knack or the nerve are unlikely to have taken a pair of nutcrackers out shopping.

Sweet as a nut, the saying goes, but can you be sure? The quality of nuts is every bit as important as the quality of any other ingredients. Freshness matters because the oil in old or badly stored nuts can turn rancid. Pine kernels are particularly vulnerable, not cheap, and I will not buy them now without tasting one first.

As with other fruits, the varieties planted and the growing conditions matter too, but few of us have much expertise in picking winners. Size and shape are seldom a guide to the sweetness of the kernel within.

The chances are that almonds and hazels which rattle too readily are drier than they should be. Check walnuts for a good seal between the two halves of the shell, and if they have been soaked eat them quickly.

Deciding whether or not to go to the trouble of skinning nuts depends more on the astringency of the skins than on their appearance in the finished dish. Almond and walnut skins are the ones which most often have to go. Taste and see if they need blanching and skinning.

For florentines, which can be baked tea-time large or petits fours small, a proportion of flaked almonds gives the biscuits a good appearance.

Florentines
Makes 50 small

55g (2oz) butter
6 tablespoons double cream
110g (4oz) golden granulated sugar
110g (4oz) flaked almonds
110g (4oz) chopped almonds
110g (4oz) glacé cherries, quartered
80g (2oz) crystallized orange peel, finely chopped
55g (1oz) flour
225g (8oz) good dark chocolate

Put the butter, cream and sugar in a heavy pan and heat, stirring until the sugar dissolves. Bring the mixture to the boil and then remove the pan from the heat. Stir in the almonds, cherries, peel and flour. Mix well.

Drop small spoonfuls of the mixture on to buttered and floured or non-stick baking sheets, spacing the florentines well apart. Use a wet knife to flatten each biscuit before baking them in a preheated moderate oven (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) for 12 to 15 minutes, or until they are golden. While they are still warm transfer the florentines to a wire rack to cool.

Break the chocolate into small pieces and put them in a wide bowl over a small pan of hot water. Allow the chocolate to melt without additional liquid and use it to spread on one side of each florentine. As it begins to set use the back of a fork to comb a traditional pattern of wavy lines into the chocolate.

Florentines will keep fresh for at least a week if stored in an airtight container.

Tagliarini or tagliolini, two names for flat ribbon pasta cut narrower than tagliatelle, is the kind I make most often at home, and it is quite widely available as "fresh" bought pasta too. It is good with a walnut sauce based on classic north Italian dish of herb stuffed pasta, the dough for which is bound with white wine instead of egg. Some versions of the walnut sauce include a handful of finely chopped parsley and a whiff, no more of garlic.

Walnut sauce for pasta
Serves four to six

110g (4 oz) shelled walnuts
4 tablespoons fresh white breadcrumbs
4 tablespoons olive oil
4 tablespoons sour milk or plain yogurt
Salt

It really is worth skinning the walnuts for this pale, luxurious sauce. Admittedly it is a fiddly job, but it can be done well in advance.

Pour boiling water over the shelled walnuts, and, after a minute or two, drain and skin them. Soak the breadcrumbs in a little water and squeeze them dry.

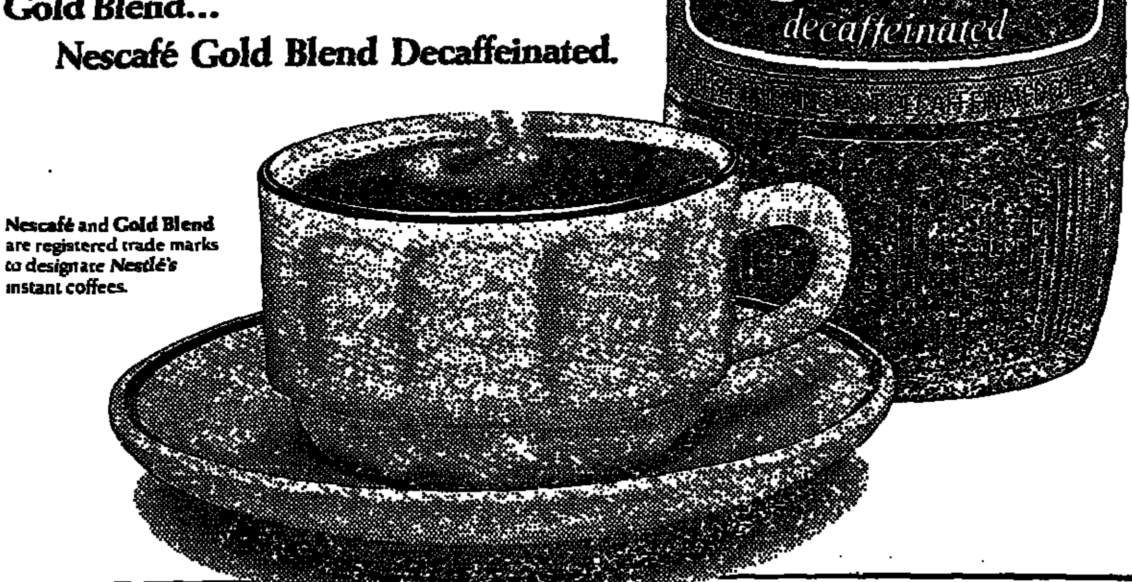
Put the walnuts in a mortar with the breadcrumbs and pound them to a smooth paste. Alternatively, use a food processor or blender.

Stir in the oil and sour milk or yogurt, adding it in alternate spoonfuls. Season the sauce with salt.

Serve the walnut sauce with freshly boiled tagliarini or tagliolini and freshly grated Parmesan cheese.







THE TIMES DIARY

Fighting the system

John Gau Productions, the film company brought in to revitalise Labour's party political broadcasts after Neil Kinnock became leader, is threatening to withdraw its services. A leaked letter from producer Peter Gillbe to Labour publicity director Nick Grant states bluntly: "... if the criteria we still apply to the PPBs was applied to our other programmes, John Gau Productions would soon be out of business". The company was only able to keep within this year's budget of £64,000 because "many indirect costs were heavily discounted or ignored" and facility houses gave "several one-off favours". "Obviously we could not afford that to continue indefinitely", says Gillbe. He insists that "a more conventional production system must operate" and refers to proposed 1985 budget reflecting that. If Labour does not accept this, Gau "would be unwilling for his company to continue producing the broadcasts". The matter concludes Gillbe "needs to be resolved as soon as possible".

Premature

The assassination of Percy Norris in Bombay yesterday could not have come at a worse time for Vimla Arni, director of the Indian Government's London tourist office. She had chosen yesterday lunchtime to hold an informal briefing to persuade travel writers that it was safe to visit the sub-continent despite Mrs Gandhi's shooting.

Foreign to him

Denis Healey may have visited the Soviet Union six times, but President Chernenko still seems never to have heard of him. Shortly before the Kinnock party walked into his private office, the Soviet leader asked a senior aide for a potted biography of Labour's foreign affairs spokesman. Perhaps it is as well Chernenko was in the dark: in Leningrad Healey offended the authorities by failing to remove his hat at the war cemetery. Glenys Kinnock shocked them still more by wearing a colourful ski outfit considered wholly inappropriate for a wreath-laying ceremony.

Not really

Compton Miller's updated *Who's Really Who* says of Frederick Forsyth: "This poker-faced aficionado of the bullring bravely chose to become an author. He finished *The Eagle Has Landed* in a month and it was rejected by four publishers ..." This must come as news to the book's author Jack Higgins, who doesn't get a single mention.

Campaign lost

Eric Heffer, widely credited with having led the rowdy demonstration that halted Commons business last week, is not the hero of Labour's left one might imagine. By rising during Norman Fowler's speech and beckoning his colleagues to follow, he wrecked a plan made by the Campaign Group of MPs the previous day to hear out Fowler's statement, let Michael Meacher make a stinging riposte, and *then* invade the floor. Heffer's premature action ensured that he reaped most of the publicity and wrecked Meacher's moment of glory. That little love is lost between the two men is an open secret.

BARRY FANTONI



'Funny, you'd think they would be crying out for sequestrators'

Campaign leak

A proposal by the Campaign for Freedom of Information to appoint a member of the Church of Scientology – an outfit described by a High Court judge this year as "dangerous, immoral, sinister and corrupt" – seems to have led to a split within FoI. According to Professor James Cornford, chairman of the FoI's 1984 Council and a director of the Nuffield Foundation, chairman Des Wilson proposed Canadian scientologist Tom Reilly to sit on their foreign panel, but Wilson was outvoted by the committee. Cornford told me, "There is no point in you running this. I hope you won't cause me any more trouble." He added that I would not get a "warm" reception from Des Wilson on the subject. Indeed, when I rang Wilson denied ever proposing Reilly, and said his name just came up – "There are 4,000 million people on this planet. Why should we invite him?" Cornford told me Reilly remained an informal adviser to the campaign; Wilson emphatically denies it. An enraged Reilly is now in correspondence with the campaign – accusing them of discrimination on the grounds of religion.

PHS

Link arms across the Channel

by William Wallace

Britain and France have a wide range of common interests in defence and security, and a long record of failure in attempting to build on them. The instinctive Atlanticism of successive British leaders has combined with the Gaullist intransigence of their French opposite numbers to sink initiative after initiative, leaving waves of mistrust and scepticism behind.

In London ministerial attitudes to European cooperaion are now changing, however, while the old certainties of Gaullist defence policy are visibly crumbling. When Mrs Thatcher meets President Mitterrand in Avignon on Thursday for the annual Anglo-French summit, proposals for closer bilateral defence cooperation will be on the agenda. The Prime Minister should pursue those proposals vigorously.

Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Conservative Party Conference in Brighton that "we need to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance", and at the Western European Union (WEU) ministerial meeting in Rome on October 26 both Howe and Heseltine impressed their partners with their new-found enthusiasm for European defence cooperation.

The core of the current debate is to be found in the Franco-German dialogue launched at a summit meeting between Schmidt and Mitterrand in February 1982. Since then three commissions of senior officials have been meeting regularly, reporting to the six-monthly meetings of heads of government in which defence ministers take part. Neither side would claim that to have yet achieved a revolution, but some solid progress had been made.

The missing link between the three leading European powers is between London and Paris. It is not that military and industrial cooperation do not exist across the Channel. But there is no sense of mutual commitment, and no political determination to strengthen the limited and often over-formal links which do exist.

Cooperation in procuring arms began more than 20 years ago, although competition between the two countries' arms industries means it has often been a bumpy road. Politico-military discussions between the two governments go easily on East-West relations, arms control, and transatlantic issues, within the multilateral framework of European political cooperation and Nato. Outside Europe, British and French forces have served recently together in the Lebanon and Sinai, and the two navies cooperate discreetly from the English Channel to the Persian Gulf. What has been lacking is a dialogue at the top, a willingness to explore other ways of working together and to accept a degree of intervention in each other's domestic debates.

The characteristic British response to French initiatives is to ask suspiciously, "What do they mean by it?". We would do better to ask ourselves what *our* objectives are and how best to harness the current European debate to those ends.

There is a real concern in Paris over the American commitment to Europe, and a reverse of the old Gaullist attitude over how to reassure them about West Europe's contribution to the Atlantic alliance. There is concern, too, about political developments in West Germany, and the need to ensure a future for the French arms industry. There is thus an opening for British ministers to draw the French more closely into sharing the responsibilities of western defence.

The generations of British leaders who have retired hurt from earlier attempts at dialogue will caution that it will not be plain sailing. But international politics rarely is. The Franco-German dialogue has already seen some hard talking behind the scenes. We would have to be prepared to discuss taboo subjects, ours as well as theirs, including independent nuclear deterrents, Anglo-American intelligence cooperation

But the prize could be great. A dialogue with the French which led to a closer link between French defence and its allies would be the single most significant contribution we could make to the alliance in the next three or four years.

The author is deputy director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Digby Anderson

Controls that drive the bargain away

Two events last week made me remember Ted: the publication of the *Good Pub Guide* by the Consumers' Association and Polly Toynbee's curious description in *The Guardian* of the splendid Mrs Victoria Gillick as "a frisky, coltish 38-year-old". Oh, the trouble progressive ladies have wih gender! Filly, Miss Toynbee, filly.

Ted was an old country boy whose last employment was hedging and ditching for the water board. His loves were pubs, buying and selling "gypsy" horses and, generally, "dealing". His highest commendation of someone was "a man as you can have a deal with". Those he disliked, he disparaged in horse talk as "bad 'un", "wants putting on a lungeing line", "a dodgy old mare" and ultimately, "a Bert Smith job" (Mr Smith was the local knacker).

Ted and I both kept chickens, ducks and geese. A source of considerable expense with free-range poultry can be fencing and netting.

One Saturday Ted announced we should visit Jim. He reckoned we could have a good deal with Jim, who had two scrawny hens and a dilapidated hen'us (chicken shed) in a field surrounded by netting. We spent three hours with Jim, who knew nothing of the purpose of our visit, and chatted about matters in general.

The field was by a railway line. Jim asked Ted if he'd ever been to London. "Once" said Ted but he'd come back the same day – he didn't know anyone. Had Ted been to the seaside? "No, he'd never seen the sea – what was the point – just a lot of old water – he saw enough of that when he washed his face in the morning.

At the end of hour one, Ted casually remarked, "What do you want keeping two old hens like those for, must be a lot of trouble for nothing." Jim supposed it was. Ted offered to take them off his hands and Jim agreed.

After another hour of gossip, Ted said: "If you haven't got any hens, you don't really want that old hen'us. It'll be full of rats anyway." Ted duly acquired the hen shed.

At the end of Act Three, Ted struck. "Now you haven't got any hens and no place to keep any in, you don't need all that netting. I could do with some. Why don't..." We bought the netting, some very expensive chain-link fencing and twenty 10ft iron posts for a song.

Ted dealt for all his goods, and not only with fellow country people. He bargained for drinks in pubs. "Look, we'll call it a pound note and I'll bring you in some pigeons next week."

He was magnificent at supermarket check-outs in the local market towns. To show him a price, especially a fixed price, was to issue a challenge. He scorned fixed measures too. The grain for the poultry never came in pre-weighed sealed bags and Ted always came off best.

I never saw his pint glass topped up with less than two-thirds of a pint for the price of a half. Though he was neither good at, nor interested in, what he called "head-work", he personified the self-reliant consumer.

The *Good Pub Guide* editor could not be less like Ted. He is infuriated by the fact that some pubs charge more than others and his fury turns into self-righteous and patronising indignation at "another black cloud... (which) needs close watching... tipping for bar food... tipping in pubs for food and drink is not the normal practice... let's firmly stamp on this new idea."

Ted would not mind consumerists providing information but, I suspect, he would be totally contemptuous of their lobbying on his behalf. He certainly would not want them to draw lines round his pint glass to ensure he got full measure. That might well prevent him getting his usual excess measure. In all, I think he would find the consumerist-activists "dodgy." Tipping is, of course, to be encouraged for next to everything. Anything which increases the negotiability of prices is in the interest of the competent consumer. Artful tipping provides a direct incentive for service and can even persuade an employee to collude with the customer against the supplier.

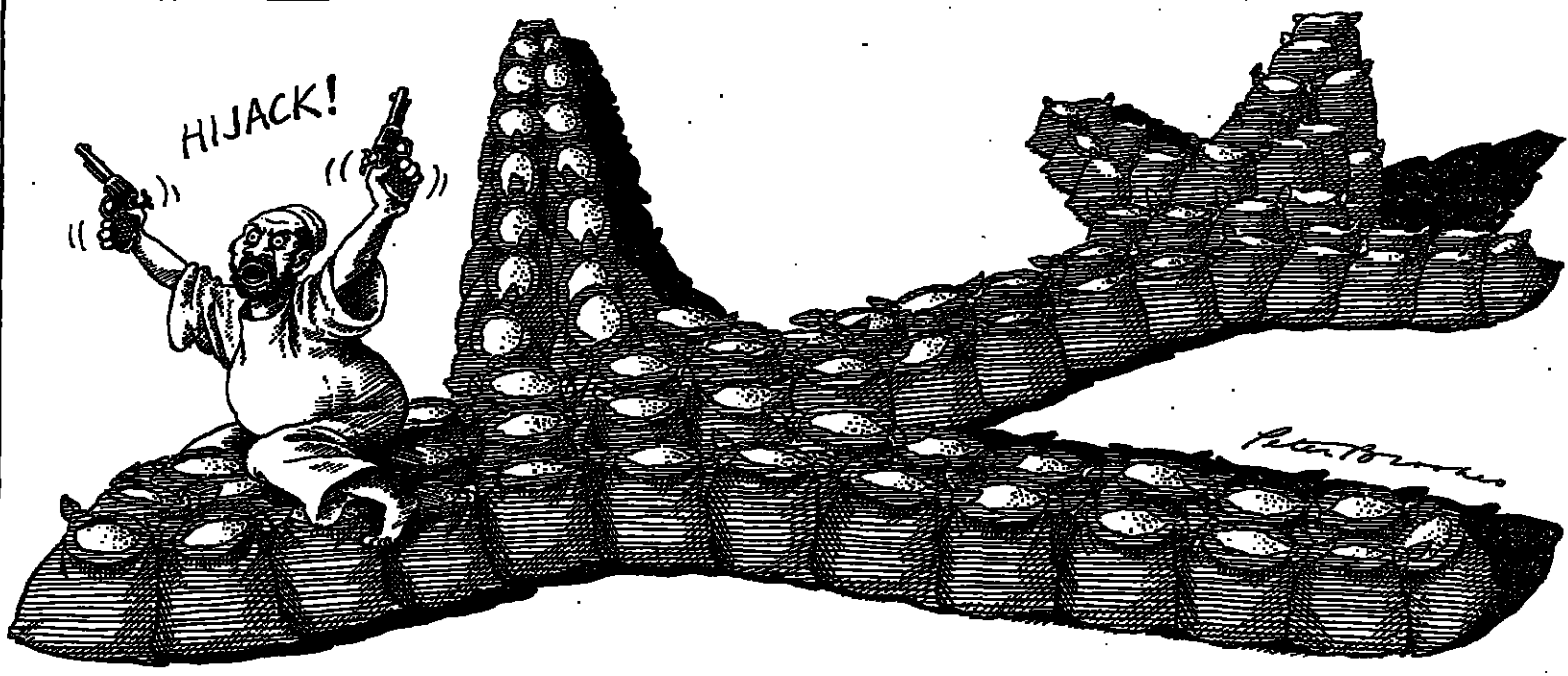
The bias against tipping and price variations is not consumerist but political. It is a view which treats customers as dolts whose interests must be secured by government regulation, standardisation and bureaucratic enforcement, and trading as an activity in which risks and unpredictability are to be minimised. Consumerists with this political view, and there are many who do not share it and confine themselves to giving information, threaten to discredit consumerism as a whole.

I was watching one on television recently playing the indefatigable hero tirelessly exposing a supposedly shady package holiday dealer, along the lines of: "You've got to speak to me (falsetto). Come out, I demand it. I am speaking on behalf of many consumers (inflates chest, turns and produces resolute look for camera). There are most serious charges I have to put to you... do you deny...?"

Suddenly I recognised someone more odious than any shady dealer. No doubt about it, "a Bert Smith job".

The author is director of the Social Affairs Unit

Mark Malloch Brown on the market forces behind food shortages



Is there trouble in store for Sudan?

Adam Ahmed Abu Zeid and his sons run a small cafe in the souk of El Fasher, 500 miles west of Khartoum. Their smartly painted sign stands out in the dusty marketplace, where lean nomads from the desert, desperate to sell their livestock in order to buy food, mix with merchants. The latter, freshly dressed in long white jellabas, are selling sorghum and millet at four times its normal price. *The cafe sign includes a motto*: "Future uncertain; life is a school".

At the moment, there is virtually no outside help for this far-flung corner of Sudan, but there soon will be. As the relief agencies and donors start to look beyond the Ethiopian famine, Sudan has come into hazy focus. The first part of an emergency shipment of 82,000 tonnes of American sorghum has just arrived at Port Sudan. More will follow. Last Friday, Mr Timothy Raison promised £750,000 from Britain. But as aid workers pile in to set up relief centres, they would do well to reflect on Mr Abu Zeid's sign.

Sudan has taken care to avoid explicitly throwing itself on the mercy of international donors in the way it feels Ethiopia has done. President Numeiri, anxious to establish the Islamic self-reliance of his regime, would certainly have to eat a lot of what he has said about the Marxist incompetence of his neighbour if he had to confess too openly that his country could no longer feed itself. But more robust agricultural economies than Sudan's have been brought to their knees by the drought.

Impatient aid officials in Khartoum suspect the government of negligence for not moving more promptly to deal with prospective famine. The 1983 harvest was bad, and the 1984 one is clearly going to be disastrous. Private United Nations estimates suggest that more than 4m people will be affected and Unicef has estimated that the health of 1.5 million women and children is at risk. The feeling among the foreign community, and indeed many Sudanese, is that in addition to managerial lethargy Numeiri's ministers and regional governors are frightened of being the bearers of bad news to their chief.

The government confronts a situation which could result in large-scale famine towards the end of 1985. This is where Ethiopia was perhaps a year ago: livestock prices plummeting, grain prices rising, mass migration by the destitute (up to one million Sudanese, mostly from the west, may have moved or are moving from parched lands that will no longer support them), and already small pockets of desperate hunger. Add to that the extra mouths of refugees, including those coming in from Ethiopia and Chad, to feed.

The country's granaries are not empty. Nor were they in Ethiopia a year ago – a fact conveniently overlooked by many who now criticise western governments and the United Nations for not having done more to help sooner.

But whereas food distribution in Ethiopia was principally inhibited by war and politics, Sudan seems to be in the grip of speculators. Grim reports on the drought and massive crop losses should not obscure the fact that Africa is still growing a lot of food. Sudan's 22 million people in an average year, consume about 2.7m tonnes. This year's harvest will only fall about 700,000 tonnes short of that. Even Ethiopia will still have grown more of the food it consumes in 1985 than it is given in food aid.

The top priority for African governments must be to get full use of their own food supplies. Food aid can, in the long-term, be a deterrent to local production (how can a Sudanese or Ethiopian farmer compete in his local market with free food) and is a double-edged weapon even during an emergency. It can bring relief to starving people but can also generate panic hoarding and speculation. So, the amount of food local merchants and producers speculatively hold back from selling in the critical famine months could actually exceed the amount given in food aid.

President Numeiri must persuade the food surplus regions in the east *and centre of his country, which are* themselves having bad harvests, to release their extra supplies for Khartoum and the west, and to a lesser extent for the north and south.

Nobody knows how much is still in stock from previous harvests. Some argue the very high prices should have already prompted merchants to sell. But there is plenty of circumstantial evidence that they have not.

For several years the Sudanese, who in good years are food exporters, have not been able to sell as much grain to the Arab countries as they would like because they have been outsold by competitors. That extra grain is probably still in storage.

The Bank of Sudan has told commercial banks that they must not extend credit to customers for more than three months if it is to be used for holding onto food stocks. The chief culprit is one of the new Islamic banks which have been shouldering the conventional banks out of much of the domestic lending sector. It is an unexpected trait of these opponents of usury, and other non-Islamic practices, that they are avid speculators in food prices.

So while the government is discreetly approaching donors for food aid, it is cautious not to make a song and dance about it for fear of pushing the food price up still further. It is hoping that the bulk of the American sorghum will be distributed in early 1985 when the *present meagre harvest should have* briefly eased the food shortage. That might seem to be when it was least needed but the government hopes that by getting as much food as possible into circulation, it can bring the domestic price down.

The political economy of famine is a lot more complex than the gesture of putting part of America and Western Europe's grain surplus into the bowls of starving Africans implies. Aid workers would do well to remember the El Fasher cafe-owner's advice: that there is much to learn.

The author is editor of The Economist Development Report.

Musical debt to a very good Guy

Many years ago, Noel Coward got into conversation with a fellow playwright, Guy Bolton, about the plot similarities between Coward's *Private Lives* and another work, *Very Good, Eddie*.

"Do you think," asked Coward, rather smugly, "that the author of *Very Good, Eddie* had seen *Private Lives?*"

"I don't think so," replied Bolton. *Very Good, Eddie* was written in 1915 and *Private Lives* in 1930". To Coward's further embarrassment, the author of the earlier play turned out to be Bolton himself.

It's unlikely that any American theatre-writer would have made such a mistake. *Very Good, Eddie* was the first hit in a series of productions whose influence is far more apparent in the West End today than anything of Coward's. Bolton was born at Broxbourne in Hertfordshire on November 23 1884, and although there will be no great celebrations to mark the centenary every musical in this year's bumper crop, from *On Your Toes* to *The Hired Man*, owes a considerable debt to him.

The Boy Friend is the most obvious example, but Sandy Wilson's spoof of 1920s musical comedy seems pretty tame compared to the real thing as practised by Bolton. In his shows, a playwright's visit to his godmother drives his jealous wife to flirt with a colonel; a Philippine revolutionary wants to marry an American heiress who wants to marry an executive in hemp; and an impoverished duke starts running a bootlegging operation ("Don't criticise a bootleggers' English if his Scotch is all right").

When the Chichester Festival billed their recent production of *Oh, Kay* as "the Gershwin/Wodehouse musical", they were doing Bolton a great injustice. He was the most sought-after librettist on Broadway, and a respected partner of the Gershwins, Kern and Rogers and Hart. The plots may have been nonsense, but they were immaculately constructed (perhaps because Bolton was a trained architect: he designed New York's Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on Riverside Drive).

It was at the Princess Theatre, the smallest in New York, that Bolton set about creating the modern musical. Unable to house Ziegfeld-style spectaculars, the Princess decided to do the opposite: no stars, 11 musicians and only two sets. Bolton pinned the word "charm" above his desk to remind him of the essential ingredient. The Princess shows were to be intimate and elegant: the audience would leave feeling lucky enough to have attended the most exclusive party.

Before Bolton there was only operetta, with its preposterous Ruritanian royalty, or hotch-potches of songs and sketches, with star performers doing their regular routines regardless of the storyline. "Our musical comedies," explained Bolton, "depend as much upon plot and the development of their characters for success as upon their music, and because they deal with subjects and peoples near to the audience ... every line, funny or serious, is supposed to help the plot continue to hold." What now seems an obvious requirement was a revolutionary concept 70 years ago. When critics hailed *Oklahoma!* and *its integrated songs and plot* as a theatrical landmark, Bolton was understandably a little miffed. He'd been writing integrated shows for 30 years.

His main partners were two other Englishmen, P. G. Wodehouse and Fred Thompson. According to their theatrical memoirs *Bring On The Girls*. Bolton and Wodehouse met on *Very Good, Eddie's* opening night, when Jerome Kern pointed out a man in the tenth row called Wodehouse, and Bolton thought he said, "It's a good house". Even by the standards of showbiz anecdotes, this sounds less likely than one of Bolton's plots. According to Wodehouse, however, "they clicked like Damon and Pythias", and began a working relationship which lasted for many years.

In their desire to eliminate the insidious influence of *Mittel Europe* they sometimes made mistakes. Looking back at a operetta adaptation called *The Riviera Girls*, a huge flop, they felt "that where they went wrong was in being too ingenious in devising a plot to replace the original Viennese libretto, which, like all Viennese librettos, was simply terrible".

They wrote instead "one to those plots where somebody poses as somebody else and it turns out that he really was somebody else... 'Boy', Guy would say to Plum, his eyes sparkling, 'you could take that plot down to the bank and borrow money on it', and Plum, his eyes sparkling, too, would agree that you certainly could. *And then the rude* awakening."

Guy Bolton died in 1979 aged 94, having written over 70 plays and musicals, a dozen screenplays and three novels. According to Gerald Bordman, the great chronicler of the American theatre, Bolton's "foresight, his high aims and his skills almost singlehandedly pioneered the modern book show". Perhaps the most appropriate tribute to this little-known innovator is that his centenary coincides with a record number of musicals on the West End stage.

In his heyday, his work inspired this tribute by an anonymous admirer (according to some, a young Lorenz Hart):

"This is the trio of musical fame
Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern:
Better than anyone else you can name,
Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern.
Nobody knows what on earth they're been bitten by:
All I can say is I mean to get lit an' buy
Orchestra seats for the next one that's written by
Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern."

Mark Steyn

Robin Cook

Why this change is offensive

Next week the defence ministers of Nato states meet for their annual conclave. As is the way with international institutions, the permanent representatives have already taken the decisions, and all that is required of the ministers is the ceremonial laying of hands on the minutes of agreement. It is therefore confidently expected that they will *give formal* assent to a fundamental shift in Nato's strategy to emphasize the projection of force deep behind enemy lines.

No new military doctrine is complete without a snappy acronym and this one has been dubbed FOFA Follow-On Forces Attack. The basic idea is that Nato will strike at the rear echelons which the Soviets might marshal to follow on their initial assault troops. The title itself contains controversy, since there is a stubborn school of military analysts which suspects that in the event of war the Soviets will hurl all they have at us and there may be no such thing as follow-on forces. As one British minister has observed: "The Soviets may not oblige us by reading the same text books."

The shift in strategy has been presented as a strengthening of conventional defence and a raising of the nuclear threshold. This is no more than public relations humbug. It is manifest from military manuals that the planners assume nuclear warheads will play a prominent part. Thus the current training document of the US Army stresses the integration of conventional, nuclear and chemical strikes "to describe a battlefield where the enemy is attacked to the full depth of his formations". The same document lists cruise and Pershing II missiles among the weapons to be integrated into such strikes.

In one respect FOFA could even lead to a lowering of the nuclear threshold. There has been pressure in Congress for theatre nuclear weapons to be released at the discretion of military commanders, on the grounds that the time taken to get political clearance is too cumbersome. General Meyer has advised the Senate that a proportion of cruise and Pershing missiles would need to be under the sole authority of the theatre commander, a development which would liquidate the understanding between Britian and the US that there would be political consultation before use.

The true dynamic behind FOFA is not a new-found distaste for nuclear warheads, but the possibilities created by technological advance. Recent refinements in radar, communication, and targeting have brought electronic management to the battlefield and encouraged the belief that it may now be practical to control the use of firepower hundreds of miles into enemy territory. There are doubts as to whether these sophisticated devices would survive the first rude shock of war which are not dispelled by their collective title of *emerging* technologies.

The danger is that the glamour and prestige of developments at the frontiers of technology may divert the Alliance from more mundane objectives, such as ensuring that major partners can fire each other's ammunition. There is a more profound risk. The traditional Nato stance of forward defence has the merit of being unmistakably defensive in that it aims to repel any invasion at the border. FOFA by contrast is explicitly offensive, and for all the protestations that it is only retaliatory there must be a real possibility that the other side will interpret it as aggressive.

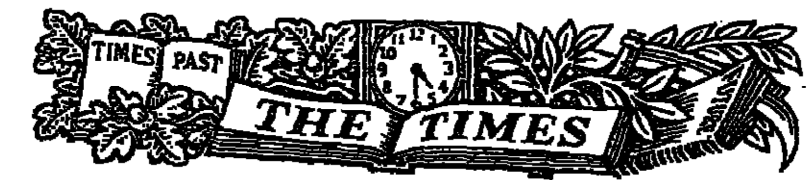
This consideration demands attention, as the *killing ground* on the target list for FOFA is not primarily the Soviet Union but the territory of its allies. Much ingenuity is applied by western intelligence agencies to divining how reliable these Soviet allies might be in the heat of battle. The conventional wisdom is that they might remain loyal in the event of a Nato attack, but would be truculent partners should it be the Soviets who launched an invasion. Nothing is more likely to guarantee their loyalty or to promote the cohesion of the Warsaw Pact than our planning to rain down rockets and shells on their homelands.

The argument is sharpened by the *parallel preparations of the US* Army for its very own version of FOFA, known as Airland Battle Plan. This envisages not merely pumping firepower into Eastern Europe, but following it through with rapid offensives deep into enemy territory.

Revealingly these plans have been described in American military *journals as a blitzkrieg strategy. The blitzkrieg* was the characteristic manoeuvre of an aggressive and expansionist power. Such a posture could not exist in harmony with the ostensibly defensive nature of Nato.

The proposed shift in Nato strategy raises profound and disturbing issues, but this major change has had little public and no parliamentary debate. The defence ministers gathering in Brussels next week would be well advised to startle the officials who have already drafted the final communiqué by kicking their proposals into touch. Otherwise they risk repeating their experience of five years ago, when the endorsement of cruise missiles brought about their ears a vehement popular reaction which was all the greater because the public had not been consulted beforehand.

The author is Labour MP for Livingston



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO TAX ON TALK

Mr Nigel Lawson will this afternoon face a certain scepticism from the Treasury committee of MPs about his budgetary arithmetic. He can comfort himself by a glance across the Atlantic, where President Reagan's second-term arithmetic is in dire trouble. Yet there are lessons for Britain's Chancellor in American reaction to the Administration's tax plans, formally released yesterday.

Unlike the British budgetary process, in which spending is fixed first and taxes made to fit after, the American system has thrown up proposals for major tax reform before the President has any clear idea how he is going to tackle federal expenditure. The new American tax plans contain themes thoroughly familiar to Mrs Thatcher's Britain, though executed on a more dramatic scale. Top income tax rates, which are already lower than on this side of the Atlantic, are planned to be cut to 35 per cent. Reliefs and exemptions are intended to be thinned out (though mortgage interest is to remain a tax-protected species). Corporate tax is to be reformed in similar ways, with a cut in the standard rate combined with a sweeping away of many allowances, most notably those tax breaks for investment.

That, at least, is what the US Treasury proposed yesterday. For even before formal publication, the backlash had proved strong enough to drive the President some distance from this tax package, leaving it to be presented at arm's length by his Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan.

This reaction, coming not least from within the White House itself, has two strands. First, the belief that such changes in corporate tax will not stimulate business activity but only anger the business lobby. Although the package as a whole is supposed to be "neutral" – that is, neither increasing nor reducing total tax revenue – those sections of American industry that have used existing allowances to reduce tax liability to trivial levels are ready to protest against change. This is a fascinating comparison with the reaction in Britain to Mr Lawson's scaling-down of capital allowances, where industry lacked the same certainty that change would imperil its performance; possibly because this had been signally less impressive in the recent past than the performance of American industry.

But there is another, and important difference. President Reagan only proposes tax change, Congress disposes; Mr Regan, indeed, has only proposed to the nation's proposer. The grit in the American legislative system can be expected to wear down the sharp points of this tax package; many of the existing tax exemptions may survive in some form. Thus the second strand of scepticism, in the White House and elsewhere, is that such "neutral" change might actually turn out to be both vote and revenue-losing, at a time when the President's targets for his budget deficit already look unattainable.

Later this week, we should learn more about how the President supposes he can halve the deficit over the next four years when his pre-election promises have rendered roughly three-quarters of federal spending untouchable. With defence and social security protected from the axe, such dramatic ideas as the complete abolition of the federal education department are circulating in Washington.

With Congress to deal with, there is no way that President Reagan can cut his budget deficit to $100 billion by 1988 with a few such sweeping strokes of the axe. Hence the continuing, debilitating uncertainty about American budgetary policy. Even so, there are lessons for other governments, like Mrs Thatcher's, in the boldness of President Reagan's approach.

If, with all his legislative limitations, President Reagan can contemplate major changes in public expenditure, then so can a British Government with a massive parliamentary majority. And if such change in America has to be subjected to widespread public scrutiny before it is presented to the legislature, so it should be in Britain.

It would, for example, be good to see Mr Nigel Lawson publicly presenting his tax plans to Mrs Thatcher, substituting open discussion for budget secrecy. It would be good to see a clearer public presentation of the Government's spending priorities before deals are done in Cabinet. An Administration so vulnerable to Congress should be more realistic about financial control; but a Government so much in control of Parliament should be less afraid of public exposure of its options.

NORTH OF WATFORD

Britain's regional development policies have proved a costly failure. Government spending on regional aid, averaging £1 billion a year over a generation, has produced no significant changes in the league table of rates of unemployment around Britain's regions, the most available measure of the decreasing circles of affluence surrounding the relatively prosperous London and South East. Indeed, slump and continuing high unemployment have magnified the absolute differences.

Of the relative changes that have occurred, Scotland has improved its position thanks to North Sea oil rather than policy measures. And many Midlanders even blame the former policy of directing investment away from prosperous areas for exacerbating the collapse of the West Midlands economy under the weight of an uncompetitive motor industry. The Department of Trade and Industry estimates a ridiculous £38,000 cost per job created at today's prices.

Those jobs appear to have been mostly the wrong ones. Concentration on manufacturing investment, rather than employment, made the outlying regions a cheap place to site peripheral high-risk factory projects, many of which were hit disproportionately by the rise in the real exchange rate and the slump. By contrast, enduring service jobs, largely ineligible for the incentives, concentrated even more in the prosperous areas, while the rise of big firms pulled more decision-making headquarters to London, with all their ancillary businesses.

By its very permanence, the policy always smacked of the defeatist palliative, which assumed that the North would always be less attractive: an industrial form of social security. As dreams of growth with full employment disappeared, it even lost its economic rationale of spreading jobs more equitably so that the economy could be run at a higher level without overheating. It has now become clear that the future problems are centred on the great provincial conurbations, which need to regenerate growth in their own right to rival the attractions of the metropolis.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Industry minister, will therefore announce his proposed changes to regional industrial policy today against a background crying out for radical reform. The changes will not however be radical. A rising proportion of regional support is now financed by refunds from the European Community's regional fund, which depend on the existence of designated assisted areas and Government grants.

The Government will therefore try to save money and correct the more foolish errors within the existing broad structure of regional industrial aid. Within those constraints, the proposals, which are likely to follow last December's White Paper closely, look sensible. They will extend grants to services, put more emphasis on jobs than investment and put a ceiling on cost per job.

Mr Lamont is likely to shrink the assisted area map further to concentrate resources, although he can now hardly ignore the West Midlands' case for inclusion. It is to be hoped that he will also shift the emphasis from automatic to discretionary grants by moving from three to two grades of assisted area, with only the worst areas receiving automatic aid.

That is good housekeeping. But it is not enough. Acknowledging the costly failure of old regional policies only emphasizes the problems they were designed to solve. We need some evidence that the Government is actively planning a new strategy as it winds down the old.

Such a strategy should be geared to helping the depressed provincial conurbations to regenerate so that they can take off into self-sustaining prosperity. There will still be a need to marshal aid to diversify the economies of towns that have lost their chief employment and to help outlying rural areas, but the main effort should come in encouraging regional growth points.

Merger policy, freeports, the siting of international airport expansion and the concentration of government scientific and technical resources can all play a part along with urban aid to the environment. Encouraging regional wage differentials and geographical mobility can help. The relative success of the Scottish and Welsh development agencies underlines the role of fully co-ordinated programmes being fully co-ordinated, preferably under local leadership. Regional policy must not simply be written off to experience.

BIGGER THAN BONN

It seems that, for the foreseeable future, West Germany's Ostpolitik will have to follow rather than lead the development of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. That is the real significance behind the flurries over the non-visit of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Poland.

The West German Foreign Minister was, in part, anxious to symbolize the continuity of Ostpolitik passing from the Schmidt-Genscher coalition government on to the Kohl-Genscher coalition government. It would have demonstrated the special role which Bonn still plays in East-West European diplomacy. Moreover, despite its public reservations about the "nationalist" colour of the Kohl government, General Jaruzelski was privately keen to receive such a high-ranking visitor from Poland's top West European trading partner. This would have been trumpeted in Warsaw as further proof that Poland is coming out of Nato's diplomatic quarantine.

Officially, Bonn says that Warsaw imposed "unreasonable" conditions, by warning Herr Genscher against visiting the Church of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, declining to let him lay a wreath at a memorial for German soldiers who died in Poland during World War II, and refusing a visa to a correspondent of Die Welt. None of these stumbling blocks bears Herr Genscher's personal hallmark. On the contrary, he had made it rather plain that he personally did not want to follow Mr Malcolm Rifkind's example by laying a wreath at the grave of Poland's martyred priest, or by meeting – even privately – Solidarity advisers. Rather did he wish to follow the precedent set by Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the SPD leader, who used his visit to Warsaw to demonstrate support for General Jaruzelski's "normalization" policies. Understandably, Christian Democrats felt that Herr Genscher was behaving as if he was still in coalition with the Social Democrats. It was these Christian Democrats who rightly put a visit to Father Popieluszko's church back on the Foreign Minister's provisional agenda.

However, it was these same conservative forces who pressured Herr Genscher into an uncharacteristically provocative proposal to honour the memory of those who had executed the Nazi invasion and occupation of Poland; and to do this at the same time as visiting Auschwitz. It would be hard to conceive of a gesture better calculated to offend both the people and the government of Poland.

Two lessons from this confused débâcle will be noted in the capitals of Europe. The first concerns West Germany's internal politics. For almost two years now, Chancellor Kohl's government has inclined to say one thing on Sunday and do another on Monday. In Sunday sermons, leading conservative politicians and Ministers have talked emotively about the old German fatherland in the frontiers of 1937 – that is, including much of present-day Poland. In their workaday diplomacy, however, they have proceeded rationally and pragmatically on the basis of full recognition of the post-war frontiers and communist régimes of Eastern Europe. Considered coolly, there may be no necessary contradiction between their preaching and their practice. But the lesson of this débâcle, as also of the earlier cancellation of Herr Honecker's planned visit to the Federal Republic, is that such matters will not be considered so coolly in lands once occupied by Hitler's armies.

The second lesson concerns the place of West Germany's Ostpolitik in the larger pattern of East-West relations. Last week's announcement that Mr Shultz will meet Mr Gromyko followed hotfoot on the announcement that Herr Genscher would not be meeting General Jaruzelski. Two months ago Mr Gromyko went to see President Reagan instead of Herr Honecker going to see Chancellor Kohl. This latest affair was not Polish, German or even European: there are larger perspectives.

Financial troubles at universities

From Professor R. M. S. Smellie

Sir, As the head of a large university science department and the father of two sons currently at university I approve of the principle that parents should be expected to contribute, according to their means, to the higher education of their children. This, of course, they already do indirectly through the medium of taxation from which are paid both student grants and grants to universities.

Between 1983 and 1984 there was a dramatic change in the method of calculating student grants which, on the one hand, halved the level of the minimum grant and, on the other, effectively doubled parental contributions. Now it has been announced that in future any family with a residual income in excess of £13,000 will have to contribute progressively with increasing income towards the maintenance and the fees of their children up to a maximum annual contribution of £4,000.

There are three points that I wish to make about this:

1. The whole basis of financial provision for students has been changed drastically in a period of less than two years and this has made it extremely difficult for students and parents alike to make any planned provision for financial support. This is especially true of students currently in mid-course.

2. It is well known that even within the present system a large proportion of parents are unable, or unwilling, to pay the full parental contribution. This can give rise to serious financial hardship for those students affected. The recent and proposed changes in financing students will inevitably give rise to a much larger proportion of students in this situation and are likely to be a deterrent to well qualified and able young people seeking higher education.

3. While it is comparatively easy to assess the family incomes of those who earn salaries or wages there is a substantial group within society, often drawn from business, the self-employed, or the farming communities, whose incomes, as assessed for student grant purposes, are sufficiently low to entitle their children to full grants but who are, nevertheless, amongst the more wealthy members of society by virtue of perquisites such as business cars and their running expenses, cheap or interest-free mortgages, school fees and so on.

Yours sincerely,
R. M. S. SMELLIE,
39 Falkland Street,
Glasgow.
November 22.

From Dr Ian J. Deary

Sir, Digby Anderson's point (November 21, p.18) is well made. My only disagreement is the degree to which the NHS system has succeeded in discriminating against lower income groups, as the Black report has clearly shown.

Nevertheles, one sympathizes with his view that the welfare state has succeeded not only in becoming entrenched in a set of rules that benefits upper and middle-income groups in the way he indicates, but also has lost the flexibility to respond to real poverty when noticed.

It is thus surprising that the present Government, in two recent attempts at a small degree of welfare redistribution, should receive such a histrionic response. As the actual figures show, the resetting of student grants benefits to a small degree lower income groups and the abolition of the minimum grant and the increase in parental contribution from those upper income groups are only a small percentage of total income.

Similarly, one has waited long enough for the fairer distribution of the present blanket system of child-benefit payments. As a doctor, with children, I wince at the not-too-distant prospect of earning, say, £20,000 a year and still collecting child benefit when, every day, I can see better ways to spend the state's money.

One suspects that the lack of enthusiastic response to the Government's measures is the pique of those privileged members who do not wish to give up a privilege. However, I am encouraged by these present small measures and hope to see further social policy develop along the line of Sir Karl Popper's enduringly sensible dictum (which I paraphrase) "the least discomfort for the least number".

Yours faithfully,
IAN J. DEARY,
The Bethlem Royal Hospital.
Monks Orchard Road,
Beckenham,
Kent.
November 21.

Okehampton by-pass

From Mr Anthony Sewell

Sir, In 1977-78, as the Countryside Commission's regional officer, I and my immediate colleagues examined the route proposed by the Department of Transport for the Okehampton by-pass which took the shorter southern route through the edge of the Dartmoor National Park.

This seemed the right choice, taking account in particular of the preference expressed at that time by the townspeople, the road costs and amenity aspects which would apply if there was no national park in the area. The commission were inclined to accept this proposal until pressed by various conservation groups urging the view that every detail of a national park must be sacrosanct.

The commission, therefore, decided that they would put forward for consideration the northern route and I took some part in preparing the original submission to the public inquiry. It is astonishing to find that the argument continues following the long-delayed report of the inspector and the secretary of state's decision.

Indeed, the route goes through the park, but this is because it was convenient to define the park partly in terms of an extant local authority boundary. A good case could be made for placing the boundary at the top of the slope above the town, or even further south to exclude the unsightly military encampment, in which case the road would be outside the park.

The special parliamentary procedure was not designed to protect national parks and appears to be simply a further device for ensuring that the long-suffering inhabitants, not to mention the road users, suffer yet more delays to satisfy groups who appear to be concerned virtually entirely with a matter of principle and not at all with amenity in terms of the people who live in the area.

The signatories of the letter in today's paper (November 24) seem to be in danger of losing the wood, and public confidence, for some hedgerow growth virtually in a back garden, on top of yet more Civil Service time and public money, going over a matter exhaustively examined in the inquiry.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SEWELL,
Bay House,
Aldbourne,
Marlborough,
Wiltshire.
November 24.

Terrifying experience

From Mr John R. Fowler

Sir, As one of the unfortunates trapped underground in a train slowly filling with acrid black smoke during the Oxford Circus fire of last Friday night, I feel I must say something about the contrast between efficiency and terrifying inefficiency.

During the whole of the ninety minutes in which my train's occupants were trapped not once did the London Regional Transport "control" respond to the guard's call on the emergency telephone. Over and over again the guard announced that efforts were being made to "raise control", but without success.

The people crammed into two carriages which were slightly less black with the noxious smoke, sitting in darkness, feeling the oxygen running out and the heat building up, required reassurance and confidence in those, literally above, to free us. Being told that those responsible for responding to calls for assistance were "not answering" did nothing to boost the confidence of the unfortunate victims of this frightening ordeal.

Even the guard himself – a pleasant and manifestly embarrassed and frightened West Indian – expressed his "disappointment" at the breakdown in communications in Anglo-Saxon expletives which none of us sharing the ordeal would ever wish to have "deleted".

I shall pursue this matter until I receive a satisfactory explanation from the London Regional Transport authorities. Three hundred coughing, perspiring and frightened passengers would like an explanation – now.

On the positive side, I would say that the police, ambulance, fire brigade and Tube employees were wonderfully brave and reassuringly efficient in all they did to lead us out of the nightmare.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. FOWLER,
35 Roxborough Road,
Harrow,
Middlesex.
November 25.

Depths of feeling

From Mr George Watson

Sir, Dr Scruton's sweeping attack on striking miners, Belgrano-addicts, Third-worlders, feminists and CND (November 13) contrives to link my late colleague, F. R. Leavis, with the cause of modern Conservatism and leaves both looking silly at the end of the argument.

According to Dr Scruton, Leavis taught us to distinguish real feeling from sentimentality, demonstrating that "what is bad in literature is bad also in life". But it isn't. Great literature can disturbingly propose evil as well good, as William Empson showed of Paradise Lost, and depth of feeling and freedom from sentimentality are no guarantee of virtue or of truth.

As National Socialism forever demonstrated, a notion can be deeply felt and totally worthless; and sentimentality must be one of the few charges never levelled against Nazism and never likely to be.

The only charge worth making against strikers, demonstrators or (for that matter) Mrs Thatcher and her monetarist friends is that they have got it wrong. Their depth of feeling is beside the point. So is that "imperfection" in Leavis's character to which Dr Scruton mysteriously alludes. As a philosopher, he surely knows that the truth of a proposition, in politics or elsewhere, is independent of the cause that have led to its being believed or disbelieved by individuals or groups.

I share his distaste for the moral simplicities of much modern political debate, and its fondness for seeing all issues as a struggle between right and wrong or right and left and wonder that he cannot see that a defunct school of literary criticism is part (if only a tiny part) of the trouble.

Mrs Thatcher is as guilty of sentimentality as Mr Scargill or Mr Dalyell, as her chant about "resolution" suggests; and the cost of Conservative sentimentality and its passion for confrontation is now there for all to see.

GEORGE WATSON,
St John's College,
Cambridge.

Brakes on wheel of enterprise

From Sir Geoffrey Jackson

Sir, Cuts once again in the Diplomatic Service, the BBC's external services and the British Council are none the less regrettable for their familiarity. Behind them lies, however, a set of national and governmental values that needs rethinking.

In relative terms, and as against foreign aid priorities, these cuts are chicken-feed. For the programmes they damage, however, they are a disaster. They are also chicken-feed compared with our current national prodigality.

Our trade balance sags under imports of consumer goods, including durables that anxious millions of our unemployed might well be producing. Our "showbiz" creaks under mega-star takings for trivia while certain ambassadors, who responded to national crisis with TV miracles of improvisation, presumably find their main reward, like their colleagues export-driving and standing-by around the world, in an inward sense of purpose and service. There is no going-rate for them; we can never pay them enough.

Our Energy Minister recently flogged the wrong horse of the national troika when he laid our ills on government for its present orientation of the economy. But government's errors, and management's, including the Civil Service, have always been reversible.

Not so, as yet, those of the trade unions. Restrictive practices, overmanning, strikes official and tongue-in-cheek – these are the brakes on competitiveness, as every export-driver knows. And they have culminated in a Royal Princess foreign-built and manned when British shipyards are closing, probably for ever.

Only when union leaders again represent rather than regiment the British working population shall we be once more the "One Nation" that, from without, we are still seen to be – not incidentally without help from HM Diplomatic Service, the British Council and the external services of the BBC.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY JACKSON,
63B Cadogan Square, SW1.
November 23.

From the Managing Director of British Aerospace

Sir, As the leading industrial exporter of manufactured goods actively engaged in high-value sales in more than 50 countries around the world, British Aerospace depends heavily on the advice and support of British diplomatic and consular missions abroad. We have been greatly impressed by the improving professional standards of services available from commercial sections of those missions in recent years.

The complex trading conditions which British exporters all face in overseas markets nowadays means that political advice and contacts are increasingly essential, in addition to the services which commmercial sections have traditionally provided.

I am therefore concerned by the prospect that proposed cuts in the FCO budget could cause reductions in the staffs who support British export efforts. Britain's overseas posts are already handicapped in supporting British exporters in comparison with the resources enjoyed by our major competitors.

It is generally agreed that the creation of jobs and the economic recovery of this country must be export-led and I would urge that no further cuts should be imposed without serious thought being given to the impact they could have on these wider national interests.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND LYGO,
Managing Director,
British Aerospace,
100 Pall Mall, SW1.
November 23.

Muffling the BBC

From Mr John Bruce Lockhart

Sir, I write to express my dismay at the proposed cut of £1m in the BBC Overseas Service: the multilingual service sometimes called the External Service.

I have spent a lot of my life abroad, much of it involved in foreign affairs. Though it is hard to quantify, I am convinced that as the reality of our power has declined, the BBC overseas programmes have done more for British influence and prestige than any other single factor.

The simple point is that since the 1939-45 war the British Overseas Service has become trusted. If an intelligent Egyptian wants to know what is going on in Afghanistan or India he turns to the BBC. He doesn't want to know what is happening in Britain – but the BBC represents his only means of obtaining an objective account of what is going on in the world. He knows his own media are untrustworthy, as also are those of his neighbours.

For millions of people all over the world the BBC Overseas Service represents the nearest they can get to the truth. Yet we pay £5m or so to Unesco, basically a corrupt, anti-Western front organisation. We pay millions for one fighter aircraft, plus back-up. Yet we cut down our most influential weapon with hardly a protest.

Truth can be a formidable international force, if skilfully used. We have shown that, above all others, we can see it. So, Sir, I protest most strongly against these proposed cuts and instead would like to see the overseas services strengthened.

Yours,
JOHN BRUCE LOCKHART.
The Reform Club,
104-5 Pall Mall, SW1.
November 24.

From Dr J. Graham Watson

Sir, The short-sightedness of the proposed cutbacks in the BBC's Overseas Service was made clear to me last week in Murmansk. A Russian student from the Kola peninsula studying history and English told me it was easy to listen to the Voice of America or Radio Free Europe if one "wished to listen to their lies", but that it was not possible to listen to the BBC.

My small £8 radio picked up the Voice of America easily, but despite knowing the programme schedules and frequency could not pick up the BBC.

How disappointing that her picture of Britain today is that reflected by the authors of her prescribed books – H. E. Bates, A. J. Cronin and the early works of Somerset Maugham.

Yours faithfully,
J. GRAHAM WATSON,
Consultant Paediatrician,
Children's Department,
Newcastle Health Authority,
Newcastle General Hospital,
Westgate Road,
Newcastle upon Tyne.
November 23.

Southgate by-election

From Mr Julian Machin

Sir, The idea put forward by Mr New (November 26) that no opposition candidate be put forward to contest the Southgate by-election seems pointless to me.

The Brighton bomb was not specifically aimed at the Conservative member for Southgate, although it was in the line of duty that he met his untimely death.

If major parties are to make a demonstration here, then it should be to make absolutely no deviation whatsoever from normal democratic procedure following the death of an MP.

In the long run it signifies better if all political candidates are seen to plod, via a long wandering, the short way either to success or to failure.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN MACHIN,
213 Sussex Gardens, W2.
November 26.

Oxford entrance

From Dr J. S. Kelly and others

Sir, Articles on Oxford are always disastrous, some more disastrous than others. At a time when the university is attempting, sincerely if somewhat awkwardly, to adapt its entrance procedures further to modern needs, it is positively ill-willed to begin an article (November 20) so emphatically with one college's special treatment of the children of its old members.

That is by now a practice prominent only by its uniqueness. We, too, are attached to our former members, but owe them no favours. Colleges should not be (and we believe overwhelmingly are not) interested in that kind of continuity, but in ensuring intellectual standards and intellectual variety. That is best done by drawing as impartially as we can on the broadest range of candidates it proves possible to attract.

Yours sincerely,
J. S. KELLY,
T. J. REED,
T. C. CAVE,
St John's College,
Oxford.
November 21.

NI Assembly sittings

From the Speaker of the Northern Ireland Assembly

Sir In Mr Richard Ford's article, "Assembly faces Hume's test" (November 22) it is stated that meetings of the Northern Ireland Assembly have been reduced from three to two a week because of "a lack of matters to discuss".

The Northern Ireland Assembly sits in plenary sessions normally on only two days a week for one important reason. Along the corridors of Stormont, six committees – appointed by statute for the role – scrutinise and report on the work of the Northern Ireland departments. This task, which is of the utmost importance for enforcing the accountability of the Government, is carried on throughout each week, and even during recesses. The scrutiny committees cannot sit when the Assembly is in session.

Plenary sessions of the assembly are useful for allowing elected representatives to argue their party's case and to ventilate grievances.

In my opinion, however, the best way forward is for members to work effectively together for the good of all the people of Northern Ireland – as they do, despite their political and religious differences – in the scrutiny committees, away from the glare of publicity.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES KILFEDDER, Speaker,
Northern Ireland Assembly,
Parliament Buildings,
Stormont,
Belfast.
November 23.

Up in the air

From Miss Barbara Crispin

Sir, Privatization may need publicity, but surely not the crude yellow illumination of the words "British Telecom" around the top of the Post Office tower.

One of the most elegant and distinctive London landmarks has been transformed into a garish advertisement for an organisation which is being very adequately drawn to public attention in other ways.

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA CRISPIN,
60 Ridgmount Gardens, WC1.
November 25.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 27: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of Her Majesty this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee, this morning chaired a meeting of the General Council of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and afterwards attended a luncheon at the Regent Crest Hotel, Carburton Street, W1.

His Royal Highness was received by the Lord Mayor of Westminster (Councillor John Bull) and the Director of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Mr Robert Heron).

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of the Royal Academy Trust, this evening gave a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, President of the Royal Society of Arts, presented the 1984 Albert Medal and Benjamin Franklin Medal at a dinner at the Society's House, John Adam Street, WC2.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this afternoon opened and toured the Boots Shopping Development at Kingston upon Thames.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Mayor of Kingston upon Thames (Councillor D. Weston), the Chairman of the Boots Company PLC (Dr P. Main) and the Managing Director of Boots the Chemists (Mr K. Ackroyd).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, President of the Save the Children Fund, this evening attended a Reception to mark the retirement of the Director-General of the Fund (Mr John Cumber), given by the Commonwealth Secretariat at Marlborough House, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Commonwealth Secretary-General (His Excellency Mr Shridath Ramphal).

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke and Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Gibbs were in attendance.

Mrs John Dugdale has succeeded Lady Rose Baring as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon today visited British Aerospace at Stevenage, and opened the Company's new Spacecraft Assembly Hall.

Her Royal Highness was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hertfordshire (Major-General Sir George Burns).

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Aird and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: The Duke of Gloucester, as Patron, was entertained to luncheon by the London Playing Fields Society at the Oriental Club, Stratford Place, London W1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron of Notting Hill Housing Trust, was present this evening at the Christmas Fair held at The Town Hall, Kensington, London W8.

Mrs Michael Wigley was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 27: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Bryan Dutton on his assuming command of the 1st Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Paget King-Fretts on his relinquishing the appointment.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 27: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a Reception at St James's Palace given to mark the Centenary of the Institute of Journalists.

The Dowager Viscountess Hambleden, Sir Martin Gilliat and Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton were in attendance.

Mrs Patrick Campbell-Preston has succeeded Lady Angela Oswald as Lady-in-Waiting to Her Majesty.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 27: The Princess of Wales today attended a luncheon with the Chairman and Directors of Coutts and Co, 440 Strand, WC2.

Mrs George West and Lieutenant-Commander Peter Eberle, RN were in attendance.

A memorial service for Sir Robert Lawrence will be held at St Pancras Parish Church, Upper Woburn Place, today at 3pm.

An organ recital will be given by Dr Dewi M. Lewis at St Margaret's Church, Westminster at 7pm on Saturday, December 1. Admission is free to the public. A retiring collection will be taken in aid of the National Schizophrenia Fellowship.

Birthdays today

Mr Tim Aitken, 40; Vice-Admiral Sir David Brown, 57; Mr Geoffrey Clarke, 60; Mr Justice Croom-Johnson, 70; Sir John Dudding, 69; Mr F. C. H. du Pre, 49; Mr Terence Fresby, 52; Sir Ronald Gibson, 75; Mrs M. H. Grimwood, 80; Mr Keith Miller, 65; Lieutenant-General Sir Joseph Mostyn, 56; Miss Dervla Murphy, 53; the Right Rev P. C. Rodger, 64; Mr H. S. Tate, 53; Major-General R. E. Urquhart, 83.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. T. Adler and Miss B. M. Rogers
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs W. J. Adler, of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, and Bridget, daughter of Mr and Mrs T. A. Rogers, Grindleford, Derbyshire.

Mr R. J. Armitage and Mrs R. H. N. Wills
The engagement is announced between Jeremy Armitage, of Fulham, London, and Susan Wills, of The Old Farmhouse, Enham-Alamein, Hampshire, widow of Mr Henry Wills.

Mr M. J. Elger and Miss A. M. J. Cavanagh
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr R. J. Elger and the late Mrs Elger, and Maria, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. R. Cavanagh.

Mr P. N. Fox-Andrews and Miss E. K. Allan
The engagement is announced between Piers, younger son of Mr James Fox-Andrews, Q.C., and Mrs Fox-Andrews, of Cheyne Gardens, London, and Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Terence Allan, of Rother Hill, Stedham, Midhurst, Sussex.

Mr J. R. Furlong and Miss J. M. Marks
The engagement is announced between James Richard, only son of Mr and Mrs J. R. Furlong, of Crowborough, East Sussex, and Jennifer, daughter of Mr P. G. Marks, of Linwood, Hampshire, and Mrs J. B. Marks, of Evesham, Worcestershire.

Mr J. E. Toppin and Miss A. J. Turner
The engagement is announced between John Eric, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. E. Toppin, of York, and Alison Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. A. Turner, of Hailsham.

Marriages

Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing and Mrs Wilkin
The marriage took place quietly in Palm Beach, Florida, on November 21 between Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing and Mrs H. Wilkin, of Anchor House, Lulworth, Dorset.

Mr S. H. Lambert and Miss D. P. Beisiegel
The marriage took place quietly in London on November 23 between Mr Simon Hugh Lambert, only son of Mr and Mrs S. R. Lambert, of Cheam, Surrey, and Miss Deborah Pauline Beisiegel, only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. C. Beisiegel, of Enfield, Middlesex.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include:

Earl Ferrers to be Chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England), in succession to the late Lord Adeane.

Lord Maclean, to be Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1985. He will relinquish his post as Lord Chamberlain of the Queen's Household at the end of this month.

Mr Robert Brook, deputy chairman and chief executive of the National Bus Company, to be chairman on the retirement of Lord Shepherd next month. He will continue as chief executive.

Celebrating a new see over tea



The Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Colin James, taking tea with the Archbishop of Canterbury yesterday after being named as the next Bishop of Winchester.

He had been widely tipped as the successor to Dr John Taylor under whom he served as a Bishop Suffragan of Basingstoke.

The Bishop of Wakefield, who is aged 58, was trained as a BBC producer in the religious broadcasting department, and was subsequently chairman of the Central Religious Advisory Committee which brings together broadcasters and representatives of the churches.

He is known as a liberal Anglo-Catholic, and opposes the ordination of women in the Church of England at present and the more radical theological views of the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins.

He was trained at King's College, Cambridge, and Cuddesdon Theological College. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Luncheons

London Playing Fields Society
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron of the London Playing Fields Society, was guest of honour at a luncheon of the society held yesterday at the Oriental Club. Mr P. G. Nathan, chairman, presided and Mr J. G. Dunbar, was also present.

HM Government
Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host yesterday at a luncheon given at Lancaster House in honour of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia.

Order of St John
Mr Ronald Gerard was the host at the St John luncheon held at 28 South Street, Park Lane, London, W1, on Monday, November 26, 1984. The guests included Mr Raphael Djanogly, Mr David Poole, Brigadier Gerald Landy, Captain Anthony Swainson, Mr Denis Thatcher and Lord Westbury.

Reception

Institute of Journalists
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was the guest of honour at a reception held by the Institute of Journalists last night at St James's Palace. Mr Barrie Farnill, president, and Mrs Farnill received the guests, among whom were:

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Lord and Lady Marsh, Mr Leon Brittan, QC, MP, Mr Tom King, MP, and Mrs King, Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP, and Lady Havers, Sir Zelman Cowen, QC, Dr David Owen, MP, and Mrs Owen, Field Marshall Sir Edwin and Lady Bramall, and Sir Terence and Lady Beckett.

Dinners

Royal Society of Arts
The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Royal Society of Arts, presented the society's Albert Medal for 1984 to Sir Hugh Casson and its Benjamin Franklin Medal to Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne at a dinner party given by Mr Martin Moss, chairman of the society, and members of the council in the Adelphi yesterday. Among the guests were:

Lord and Lady Benson, Lady Casson, Sir Jasper and Lady Hollom, Sir Austin Pearce, Lady Richardson of Duntisbourne, Sir John and the Hon Lady Riddell, Sir John Summerson and the Right Rev Dr Edward Wickham.

Anglo-German Association
The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany and Lord Lucas of Chilworth were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Anglo-German Association held at the Café Royal yesterday. Sir Frank Roberts, president, and Lady Roberts received the guests. Others present included:

Lord and Lady Croham, Lord Inglewood, Sir Bernard Braine, MP, Mr H Dykes, MP, and Mrs Dykes, Frau Doris Krug, Dr and Mrs F Hamblin, Air Commodore L G P Martin, Chairman, and Mrs Martin, Miss A Malkie, Mr and Mrs P McGregor, Mr and Mrs N Reddaway, Mr P Rost, MP and Mrs Rost, Mr and Mrs A T Scales, Baron and Baroness H von Stein and Mr and Mrs P Vlieland.

Anglo-Brazilian Society
The Anglo-Brazilian Society held a dinner at the Dorchester hotel yesterday at which Baroness Young was the guest of honour. Members and guests were received by the Brazilian Ambassador, president, and Senhora Gibson-Barboza and the Earl of Dartmouth, chairman, and the Countess of Dartmouth. Among others present were:

The Ambassadors of Dominica and Mexico; the Portuguese Ambassador and Senhor Hall Themido, Lady Wallinger, Lady Fry, Sir Derek and Lady Dodson, Sir Norman and Lady Statham, Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop, MP, Dr Geoffrey Young, Mr and Mrs D C Thomas, Ambassador and Senhora Orlando Soares Carbonar and Minister and Senhora J O Rache da Almeida.

European-Atlantic Group
The European-Atlantic Group held a dinner last night at St Ermin's Hotel for Mr James Buckley after a meeting held in the House of Commons arranged by Sir Antony Buck, QC, MP, Mr Eldon Griffiths, MP, presided and Lord Chalfont proposed a vote of thanks.

Old Plymothian and Mannameadian Club
The thirty-sixth annual dinner of the London section of the Old Plymothian and Mannameadian Club was held on Friday, November 23, at the Coburg Hotel. It was attended by 40 former pupils of Plymouth College. The chairman of the London section, Mr Christopher Morton, welcomed as guests: Mr A. M. Joyce, Headmaster of Plymouth College, Mr C. M Meade-King and Mr W. Fisher.

Institute of Public Relations
The fellows' dinner of the Institute of Public Relations was held in the Library of the Reform Club last night. Mr John Garnett, Director of the Industrial Society, was the guest speaker. Mr Peter Smith, president of the institute, and Mrs Smith welcomed the guests.

Service dinner

Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron
The Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron, under the command of Squadron Leader J. T. Craven, held its annual dinner in the Trades Hall of Glasgow yesterday. The guest of honour was Air Marshal Sir Michael Knight, Air Member for Supply and Organization. The guets include:

Professor G Melvyn Howe, Professor M Lewis, Professor L W Barr, Professor R K Shaw, Air Vice-Marshal R C F Peirse, Air Vice-Marshal J F H Tetley Commodore D Pentreath, RN, Group Captain M J Butler and Lieutenant Commander E Fitgerald.

Forces Help Society

The showroom and offices of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts workshops at 122 Brompton Road, London, SW3, are being refurbished and should reopen in the new year when a new range of furniture, baskets, and brushes will be on display. For further information please ring 01-589 3243.

Latest wills

Meredith Frampton, of Mere, Wiltshire, the portrait painter, left estate valued at £120,528 net.

Elsie Melitta Butler, of York, left estate valued at £1,088,812 net. Bequests include £1,000 to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Davis, Mr Stanley Ernest Frost, of Romford, Essex £223,285
Everett, Mrs Aileen Dorothy, of Milford on Sea, Hampshire £339,630

University news

Edinburgh
Dr M H Kaufman has been appointed to the chair of anatomy from July 1, 1985. He succeeds Professor G J Romanes.

London
Professor Malcolm Skilbeck, professor of education, London University Institute of Education, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. He will take up the appointment in January, 1986.

Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges
Grant
Science and Engineering Research Council: £61,181 to Dr P G Frayne to research a network probe for millimetre wave integrated circuits.

Wales
Lord Cledwyn, president of Aberystwyth University has resigned as Pro-Chancellor of the University of Wales. He takes up his new appointment on January 1.

University College, Cardiff
Appointments
Lectureships: Mr A Cooke (journalism); Dr A M Pollard (chemistry); Dr D R Kelly (chemistry); Dr W G Herrenden-Harker (physics).

Exeter
Grant
Horserace Betting Levy Board: £80,254 to D P Attenburrow, F C Flack and W Vennart for research into respiratory function in horses at rest and at exercise.

Science report

How Israel outwitted an invader

By Stephen Young

Israeli zoologists recently encountered a curious problem. Woodpeckers have taken to drilling holes in the plastic irrigation pipes used in orchards and other plantations.

And, as if to add insult to injury, the species responsible for the attacks is none other than *Dendrocopos syriacus*, the Syrian woodpecker.

Leaky pipes are a drain on resources and poor irrigation can reduce the eventual value of a crop. So the aberrant woodpeckers must be brought under control.

However, conventional techniques, such as hiding the pipes under vegetation and attempts at poisoning the birds, have proved unreliable. Besides, the woodpecker normally does the fruit grower a service by eating the larvae of wood-boring beetles; if the birds were exterminated, there might be serious consequences.

Anat Barnea and Yoram Yom-Tov, of Tel Aviv University, set out to find a solution and their findings are published in a recent issue of *Crop Protection*.

The opening move was a survey to establish whether there is a seasonal pattern to the woodpeckers' depredations. The results showed that summer is the worst part of the year, suggesting that woodpeckers are drilling for drinking water.

The birds, however, apparently peck pipes even when other sources of water are close at hand, so the simple expedient of slaking their thirst with a more easily obtainable water supply seems doomed to failure.

The scientists' first attempt at a practical solution was simple but ingenious: they replaced ordinary black plastic conduits with collapsible pipes in the hope that deflated pipes would hold no attraction for woodpeckers. But the experiment was a flop because the scientists were unable to fool the birds, who continued to view the empty pipes as targets worthy of their attention.

Recalling that bright colours, such as reds and yellows, often serve as natural danger signals in the animal kingdom, the researchers decided to paint the pipes yellow. That move was a qualified success.

After a shaky start, such pipes did seem to deter the local woodpeckers. Damage sustained by black tubing in the same orchard was up to normal levels, but the yellow pipes were almost completely ignored.

In a further experiment, the researchers replaced the complete irrigation system of an orange grove with yellow plastic tubing. No attacks by woodpeckers were reported in a year of field trials.

Whether the yellow colour really frightens woodpeckers is not clear. Perhaps the birds have not learnt that yellow pipes are as likely to yield satisfaction as black ones. The experiment will be monitored to check that woodpeckers remain wary of yellow pipes before the method is applied on a large scale.

OBITUARY

LORD HOWARD OF HENDERSKELFE

Former Chairman of the BBC

Lord Howard of Henderskelfe who died yesterday, at the age of 64, pursued a career of public service in which the traditional and the contemporary were remarkably blended. A Yorkshire landowner, he devoted much of his life to his territorial interests and responsibilities, and especially to the safeguarding of his great inheritance, Castle Howard. Yet he was very much a man of his time, abreast of modern technology, unshackled by convention, and so much at home in the world of broadcasting that he became, not only an active member of the BBC's Board of Governors, but eventually its Chairman, from 1980 to 1983.

George Anthony Geoffrey Howard was born in 1920, the second of three sons of the Hon Geoffrey William Algernon Howard, a son of the ninth Earl of Carlisle. He was educated at Eton and Balliol, and commissioned in the Green Howards in 1940, serving in India and later in Burma, where he was wounded. After a period of attachment to the Indian Army, with the rank of Major, he returned when the war was over to face heavy family responsibilities. Both his brothers had been killed in action in 1944.

As sole inheritor of Castle Howard, he was seated amid one of the great architectural landscapes of England, the early masterpiece of Vanbrugh, completed in 1714 for the third Earl of Carlisle. Sixty years later Horace Walpole would write of the Palladian mansion in its setting that "it was possible to see at one view a palace, a town, a fortified city, temples in high places, woods . . . the noblest lawn in the world, fenced by half the horizon".

This mansion, with its works of art and accompanying estate, presented problems of management which must have appeared almost beyond solution in the post-war world. The energy and resource Howard displayed in conserving it both as a home and as part of the national heritage, marked him out as a notable modernizer, and as a sensitive guardian of irreplaceable treasures. When the burden outran the family resources, a private company was formed, charged mainly with its preservation. Eventually a Government grant was secured to meet the cost of repair of the fabric.

One result that particularly gratified Howard was the restoration of the noble dome dominating the mansion, which had been damaged by fire during the war. Arrangements were made for admitting the public, and further millions were to become familiar with the classical vision as the location of *Brideshead Revisited* in its television version.

A man so placed was bound to attract public work, and he responded with zeal to all demands arising from his standing as landowner, agriculturist, preservationist and connoisseur. He served at various times both on Malton Rural District Council and on the North Riding County Council. He was a pillar of the Country Landowners' Association, and from 1969-71 its President ("one of the most dynamic they ever had"). Later he held similar office in the Historic Houses Association. He was active in the National Trust, the York Georgian Society, and a Member of the National Parks Commission.

His cultural interests embraced the Royal College of Art, (of which he became Chairman), and the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. Himself a farmer, he became Chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, (1974-77). He served a term on the Central Water Advisory Committee.

In December, 1971, Howard accepted an invitation to fill avacancy on the Board of Governors of the BBC. His regional interests would in themselves have qualified him, but he showed wider scope. A far-ranging curiosity about all aspects of broadcasting was matched by a formidable appetite for detail in satisfying it. No area of the BBC's operations could hold itself immune from his roving attentions. He could be disconcerting, and at times trying to the patience, especially when invading ground where few but specialists are accustomed to tread. But the genuineness of his interest, his powers of assimilation, and the pragmatic shrewdness of many of his conclusions, won respect.

As 1980 approached, the impending retirement of Sir Michael (later Lord) Swann from the Chairmanship of the Governors brought into tentative operation the arcane processes preliminary to the appointment of a successor. The names canvassed in the newspapers did not at first include that of Howard, but as the time for an announcement drew near he began to appear as a more or less fancied outsider. In the event, the Home Secretary, William Whitelaw, who knew something both of Howard and of the peculiarities of the post, decided he need look no farther. In August 1980, he acceded to the Chair.

Howard was no theorist, and he never ventured, in the course of a three-year term, very far on the delicate ground of the relationship between his office and that of the Director-General. He did, however, say, in one of those laconic asides to an interviewer, which were his preferred medium of public utterance: "He (the Director-General) runs it, I am the one who ultimately carries the can. I am the titular head ..... I cannot see how you can run an organisation when you have an executive Chairman plus a Chief Executive. The Chief Executive cannot then be other than Number Two .... I have no difficulty in feeding my ideas in".

Nevertheless, it left the Chairman latitude. How far Howard chose to avail himself of it can be known only when the records are opened. In the meantime, it is safe to say that he was no mere figurehead.

He enjoyed one peculiar advantage. When he was raised to his higher responsibilities, he was already the longest-serving Governor. He thus brought to their discharge an element of continuity which few or none of his fourteen predecessors, and certainly no rival candidate introduced from outside, could have provided. This had particular relevance at a time when the long negotiations with Whitehall for the renewal of the BBC Charter, and the increase of its licence revenue, were moving towards a climax. His term covered the culmination of this process in a settlement much in accord with the aspirations and claims of the BBC. This was a collective achievement for public service broadcasting, in which the leading role belonged by common consent to the Director-General, Sir Ian Trethowan.

But Howard's intimate knowledge of the BBC, and his whole-hearted commitment to its entrenched independence, cannot have been other than a powerful reinforcement, and this consummation must rank as the outstanding event of his Chairmanship.

His devotion to the ship in which he served also came out when storms of controversy broke over it. The most notable of these occurred in the Spring of 1982, when supporters of the Government, with the known sympathy of the Prime Minister, vented their outrage at what they felt to be a lack of objectivity in some BBC current affairs programmes transmitted at the height of the Falklands campaign. Howard's bearing in a Commons Comittee Room full of Conservative MP's in full cry at that time, was likened by some observers to the doggedness of a baited bull.

Less known to the world, but more congenial to a versatile mind, was his capacity to maintain dialogue with broadcasters of widely varying disciplines, including engineering. This gave him a particular command of the intricacies of cable and satellite, increasingly under discussion as his term progressed. His knowledge of building enabled him to become the driving force in preparations for the new radio centre on the site of the Langham in Portland Place, and in the choice of an architect for it – work which he himself would probably have regarded as his main personal achievement.

He had also "a taste for celebration". The great service in St Paul's on the BBC's sixtieth anniversary was entirely his conception, carried through despite the reservations of those who favoured a more modest observance.

Howard was a man of somewhat formidable presence, inclining to the portly, who could be wittily expansive, formally correct, or, on occasion, dauntingly brusque. Both his observance of polite convention, and his propensity to thrust it unceremoniously aside, had alike a certain arbitrary air, inherited from an aristocratic past. His occasional extravagances of dress, (as, for instance, when he assumed his well-known caftan), conveyed not a sense of yielding to permissive fashion, but rather of his feeling himself above fashion. But there were always other dimensions in a complex personality. It was the grandee in him that sometimes gave the impression that the whole world was merely an extension of Castle Howard.

It was perhaps most of all the Whig in him which gave the underlying sense of the worth of the individual, the eye for new horizons, and the feel for the concrete and the practical, which guided him through an unusual career of unbroken public service.

The private man was less accessible. An intimate circle testified to qualities of sensitivity, kindliness and domestic affection which a proud reserve tended to conceal. In 1949 he married Lady Cecilia FitzRoy, a daughter of the eighth Duke of Grafton, who bore him four sons. She shared his deep feeling for Castle Howard, and supported him in his work for it, until her untimely death in 1974.

He was created a Life Peer in 1983.

MR PERCY NORRIS

Mr Percy Norris, OBE, who was shot dead in Bombay yesterday at the age of 56, had been Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay for six weeks. His career had been on the Consular and commercial side of the diplomatic service and he had made a great success of selling British goods abroad.

Percy Leonard Norris was born on April 17 1928 and joined the Colonial Office from school as a junior clerk in 1945. With a break for national service in the Royal Navy from 1947 to 1949 he was to serve in the Colonial Office until 1961.

He was at the Commonwealth Relations Office in 1961 and then went to Kuala Lumpur where he stayed from 1961 to 1965. From 1966 he was second Secretary (Admin and Consular) at Lagos and from 1970 Second Secretary (Commercial) at Brussels.

He was seconded to the Department of Trade and Industry as First Secretary from 1972 to 1975 in which year he went to Philadelphia where he remained as Consul/First Secretary (Commercial) until 1980 when he was appointed First Secretary (Commercial and Consular) in Dubai.

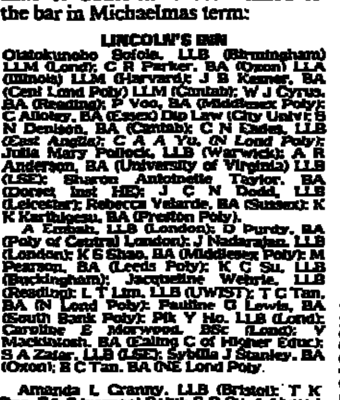
Known to his colleagues as a large and energetic man, Norris was highly successful on behalf of visiting British businessmen and worked hard at selling British goods, a quality recognized in his appointment as OBE in the New Years Honours list, this year.

He is survived by his wife Angela whom he married in 1951, a son, and a daughter.

Calls to the Bar in Michaelmas Term

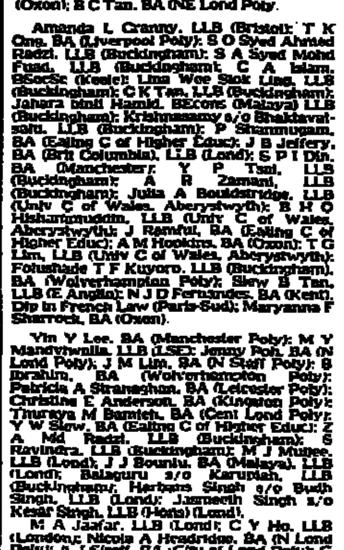
The following students of the Inns of Court have been called to the bar in Michaelmas term:

LINCOLN'S INN

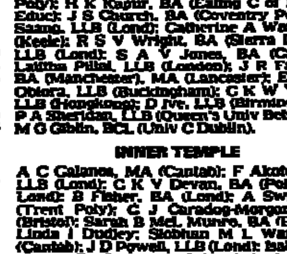


Olatokunbo Sofola, LLB (Birmingham) LLM (Lond); C R Parker, BA (Oxon) LLA (Illinois) LLM (Harvard); J B Kenner, BA (Cent Lond Poly) LLM (Cantab); W J Cyrus, BA (Reading); P Voo, BA (Middlesex Poly); C Alloley, BA (Essex) Dip Law (City Univ); S N Denison, BA (Cantab); C N Eades, LLB (East Anglia); C A A Yu, (N Lond Poly); Julia Mary Pollock, LLB (Warwick); A R Anderson, BA (University of Virginia) LLB (LSE); Sharon Antoinette Taylor, BA (Dorset Inst HE); J C N Dodd, LLB (Leicester); Rebecca Velarde, BA (Sussex); K K Karthigesu, BA (Preston Poly).

A Embah, LLB (London); D Purdy, BA (Poly of Central London); J Nadarajan, LLB (London); K S Shao, BA (Middlesex Poly); M Pearson, BA (Leeds Poly); K C Su, LLB (Buckingham); Jacqueline Wehrle, LLB (Reading); L T Lim, LLB (UWIST); T C Tan, BA (N Lond Poly); Pauline G Lewis, BA [illegible]

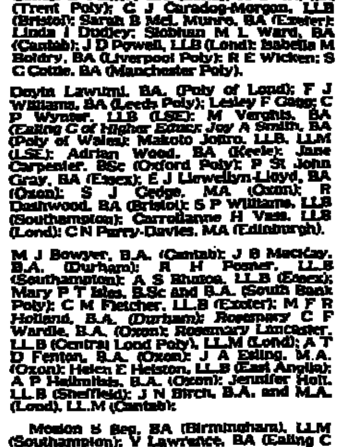


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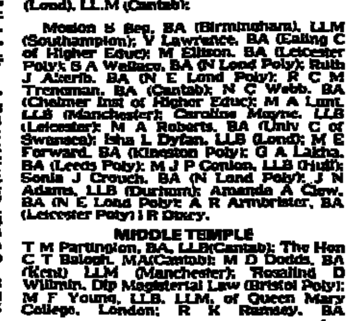
B Hughes, LLB (Univ of Wales); Mun F Chang, LLB (London); Sin F Chew, LLB (London); J E Woodward, BA (Preston Poly); H K Kapur, BA (Ealing C of Higher Educ); J S Church, BA (Coventry Poly); A Saame, LLB (Lond); Catherine A Ward, BA (Keele); R S V Wright, BA (Sierra Leone), LLB (Lond); S A V Jones, BA (Cantab); Lalitha Pillai, LLB (London); J R Fairless, BA (Manchester), MA (Lancaster); Esther I Obiora, LLB (Buckingham); C K W Young, LLB (Hongkong); D Ive, LLB (Birmingham); P A Sheridan, LLB (Queen's Univ Belfast); P M G Giblin, BCL (Univ C Dublin).

INNER TEMPLE

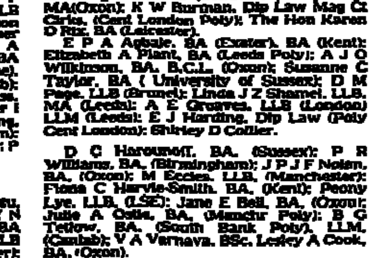


A C Galanos, MA (Cantab); F Akoto-Sasu, LLB (Lond); C K V Devan, BA (Poly of N Lond); B Fisher, BA (Lond); A Swift, BA (Trent Poly); C J Caradog-Morgan, LLB (Bristol); Sarah B McL Munro, BA (Exeter); Linda J Dudley; Siobhan M L Ward, BA (Cantab); J D Powell, LLB (Lond); Isabella M Boldry, BA (Liverpool Poly); R E Wicken; S C Cottle, BA (Manchester Poly).

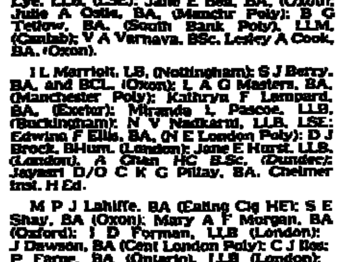
Onyin Lawumi, BA, (Poly of Lond); F J Williams, BA (Leeds Poly); Lesley F Gaag; C [illegible]



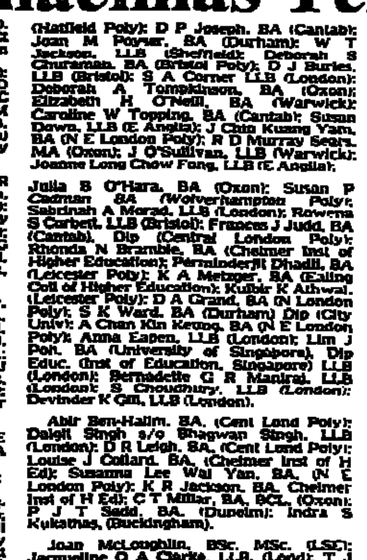
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The following have been called to the Bar at Gray's Inn:

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THE TIMES
FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Time for Sterling to unite his domains

The excellent interim figures of Steling Guarantee Trust (SGT), reported yesterday, heavily reinforce the launching pad for Mr Jeffrey Sterling's next major initiative. It is fair to say that if the hyperactive chairman of SGT does not merge SGT with P&O, where as chairman and saviur he is also riding the crest of the wave, his supporters will begin to question his strength of purpose, while perceptive institutional investors ll note the loss of a major strategic opportunity. As timing is of the essence – for psychological as well as practical reasons – a scheme for merging the two companies cannot be put off. If the concept is right, the time is now.

The simplest, and probably the best, way to proceed is via a bid by P&O for SGT, which incidentally, now owns just under 20 per cent of P&O's equity. Once he is embarked on this course however, Mr Sterling cannot afford to fail: the loss of credibility and the consequences that would flow from it are too serious even to contemplate. Nothing can guarantee the success of a takeover bid: all he can do is to present both sets of shareholders with powerful logic and offer them terms that are manifestly fair. The logic is the more straightforward part.

Although P & O is thought of largely as a shipping company, it is, in the modern jargon, a service group. So too is SGT, which, in addition to its substantial property business, is in hand tools, warehousing, catering, exhibitions (Earls Court and Olympia) and security. The management approach for both groups is therefore basically the same; and putting SGT and P & O together would concentrate the top management under one roof. It can profit neither company if Mr Sterling and the team he trusts and wants around him are having to perform in different arenas.

The second point concerns the job still to be done at P & O. While much has been achieved in little more than a year under the whip of Trafalgar House's interest in acquiring the company, the real work has still to be done. P & O has perhaps £200 million worth of under-utilized assets and, by definition, it is deficient in certain areas of senior management. There is a detectable desire in some parts of P & O to revert to old habits now that the "enemy" has been driven from the gates. It is not in Jeffrey Sterling's nature to allow that to happen. He is also convinced, no doubt, that to be master in one house is a necessary condition for P & O to achieve its full potential.

P & O however, has a distinctive culture which save, at times of crisis, has shown a strong resistance to change. Notwithstanding Mr Sterling's success in saving P & O from Sir Nigel Broackes, his is not yet every P & O man's cup of bouillon. He needs a steady ship and a harmonious bridge and engine room. One difficulty is a lingering feeling in P & O that he is essentially a man of finance and property, and, much more damning, a second Frank Sanderson come among them! Frank almost pulled off the unthinkable: a reverse takeover bid that would have left him and Bovis in control of P & O.

With Bovis now a P & O subsidiary and propery as well as construction a significant P & O group activity, the dovetailing of Bovis and SGT's property division must make a deal of sense. SGT's substantial property portfolio would be equivalent to money in the bank for P & O. A merger would also produce a substantially bigger P & O balance sheet – an important factor for an actively acquisitive group, as P & O would undoubtedly become.

So much for the industrial or merger logic: the thornier case to present would be the terms. For a veriety of practical and emotional reasons, P & O would bid for SGT, not the other way round. But because SGT's stock market rating is higher than P & O's, any sensible price likely to attract SGT shareholders, would inevitably dilute earnings attributable to P & O's existing shareholders.

There is a persuasive subtlety here, which if P & O shareholders were convinced of the logic and prospects of a merged group, they might have to take on board. The market valuation of a property company's shares is set chiefly by the worth (net asset value per share) of the company's property portfolio. This is a balance sheet item with little immediate reflection in the profit and loss account. It would however, represent positive value if subsumed in P & O's accounts.

The only question would be whether any wavering institutional shareholders in P & O and City analytical nit-pickers would accept that this potential value was enough to offset say a 20 per cent dilution of P & O earnings. We should not have to wait too long to find out.

The Oppenheimer legacy

When two years ago Mr Harry Oppenheimer stepped down as chairman of Anglo American he said that he would remain at the helm of the sister De Beers company while the crisis in the diamond industry persisted. Diamond prices remain depressed, but yesterday HFO, Anglo-De Beers, second emperor (his father was the first), announced that as from the beginning of next year he will cease to be chairman of De Beers and become again no more than a humble board member.

Henry's had been a remarkable career, with few parallels in international business. During his 50 years as a director of De Beers, 27 of them as chairman, the corporation has maintained its monoply grip on one of the world's most glamorous and – in good times – profitable industries. His contemporaneus chairmanship of Anglo American saw that company develop from being one of the world's biggest gold miners to an industrial and financial giant whose size and strength far outgrew the limited confines of South Africa.

Although HFO's good fortune was to inherit much from his pioneering father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, it woul be churlish to deny that the present shape and global scope of Anglo-De Beers and its satellites is largely his creation. Indeed, so great has his influence been and so close the identification of these mighty concerns with his own name that the succession has long been the subject of speculation.

The chairman desigante of De Beers, Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, is liberal in the Oppenheimer mould – a Rhodes scholar and son of South African chief justice. But he is a corporate man, as is his counerpart at Anglo American these past two years, Mr Gavin Relly. The Family line of succession is with Harry's son, Nicky, who is vice-chairman of both Anglo American and De Beers.

Harry Oppenheimer, whose influence will undoubtedly remain pervasive, has left those who follow him the problem in business of maintaining a global monopoly. It will not be easy.

Stock Exchange likely to be ruled by single commission

By Philip Robinson

It now looks almost certain that Britain's financial community will be governed by one American-style commission with legal backing rather than self-regulatory agencies relying on goodwill to ensure the rules are kept.

A last-minute argument about whether there should be one commission or two separate agencies operating self-regulation has delayed publication of the White Paper on investor protection.

Originally due out on Friday, it is now unlikely to appear much before the New Year. The Department of Trade and Industry says there are no significant problems and that it is not unknown for a White Paper of this sort to suffer delay.

However, investment sources confirm that discussions between the department, the Bank of England and the Stock Exchange, have centred around having one commission and have been concerned with "getting it right rather than early". The argument for self-regulation is that self-regulatory bodies may act swiftly to close loopholes in the rules where similar action by a Parliamentary route would take years.

An attempt at compromise is now being made. The goal is to have one commission with sufficient legal backing to be taken seriously but not so hamstrung by laws as to prevent it taking quick action.

Six weeks ago Mr Alex Fletcher, Under/Secretary of State for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, gave the City an outline of what the Government may accept. It came a few months after a 10 member committee brought together by the Bank of England tried to design a realistic framework

Mr Fletcher then suggested that the pyramid of power from the Department of Trade could pass through two self-regulatory bodies to self-regulatory agencies. There would also be an appeal tribunal and a roving role for Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading.

Present thinking is now for one regulatory body, probably an investment commission, which will be dominated by the City's practitioners rather than by civil servants. A single body would also make it easier to recruit a 'commissioner' of high status.

Legislation on investor protection is still planned for the 1985-86 Parliamentary session. Any long delay may push the Bill into a possible election year when it would face the risk of being postponed.

The Bill would also run the risk of not being quite in tune with the rapid pace of change within the City. That developed further on Monday when Chase Manhattan, one of America's largest banks, gave notice that it wants to buy both Simon & Coates and Laurie, Milbank

Meanwhile, a clash looks likely soon between the Stock Exchange and the Council*for the Securites Industry, the City's ultimate self-regulatory group. Both have published views on how to avoid potential conflicts of interest thrown up by the formation of financial conglomerates.

● Mr Fletcher said in a speech to accountants yesterday that they should encourage their corporate clients to seek early guidance on mergers and to make public statements as early as possible to avoid creating a climate for insider dealing.

Further US prime cuts

The pound recovered some of Monday's sharp losses yesterday, as further reductions in prime rates were announced in the United States. Sterling gained 90 points against the dollar to close at 1.2090 in London, also picking up two pfennigs to 3.6925 against the Deutschemark. The sterling index rose by 0.4 to 74.6.

Share prices in London were marked up in moderate trading ahead of today's closing date for the British Telecom applications. The effect was to lift the FT 30 share index by 3.2 to a fresh record of 925.3.

Confirmation that Monday's quarter-point cuts in US prime rates were only a start was provided by Chase Manhattan Bank. Having failed to move its rates on Monday, Chase cut its prime rate from 11.75 to 11.25 per cent yesterday.

The dollar was subdued yesterday as financial markets awaited details of the US Budget, but dealers said that the prime rate reduction had little impact. Further cuts, to take the prime rate to 11 per cent, are expected.

Sterling was trading at $1.2030 in New York last night.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 0000.0 down 00.0
(high: 0000.0; low: 000.0)
FT Index: 925.3 up 3.2
FT Gilts: 83.00 down 0.06
FT All Share: 558.62up3.65
Bargains: 17,481
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 105.26 down 0.28
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1209.14 up 3.20
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 11,184.12 up 21.16
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1112.73 down 1.23
Amsterdam: 177.8 down 0.6
Sydney: AO Index 752.5 down 13.0
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1086.01 down 6.0
Brussels: General Index 158.21 down 0.29
Paris: CAC Index 181.2 down 0.5
Zurich: SKA General 313.00 down 0.20

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling
Index 74.6 up 0.4 (range 74.6-74.2)
$1.2090 up 90pts
DM 3.6925 up 0.02
FrF 11.3125 up 0.0695
Yen 296.75 up 1.40

Dollar
Index 141.7 down 0.2
DM 3.0525 down 0.0070

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling $1,2030
Dollar DM 3.0720

INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.604770
SDR £0.825007

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates $9\frac{3}{4}$-$9\frac{1}{2}$
Finance houses base rate 11
Discount market loans week fixed $9\frac{1}{2}$
3 month interbank $9\frac{15}{16}$-$9\frac{13}{16}$

Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar $8\frac{15}{16}$-$8\frac{13}{16}$
3 month DM $5\frac{11}{16}$-$5\frac{9}{16}$
3 month Fr F$11\frac{1}{16}$-$10\frac{15}{16}$

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.75-11.25
Fed funds $8\frac{15}{16}$
Treasury long bond $103\frac{3}{4}$-$103\frac{11}{16}$

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period October 3 to November 6, 1984, inclusive: 10.616 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am $333.35 pm $332.90
close $333.50 - 334.00 (£275.75 - 276.25)
New York (latest): $332.40
Krugerrand* (per coin): $343.00 - 345.50 (£284.00 - 285.25)
Sovereigns* (new): $78.50 - 79.50 (£64.75 - 65.75)
*Excludes VAT

Bank smooths Telecom issue

By Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent

The Bank of England is making up to £1,500m of extra liquidity available to the money markets next week to compensate for the huge outflow of funds expected to be caused by the British Telecom share sale.

The massive market-smoothing operation – one of the biggest of its kind ever mounted by the Bank – was announced last night after a day in which applications for BT shares continued to pour into the receiving banks in the City and around the country.

Although no formal estimate of the level of response was being given by Klenwort, Benson, the Government's merchant bank advisers, the final tally now looks set to be well in ecxcess of two-and-a-half million – with some estimates that it could be as much as three million. The deadline for applications to be received is 10 o'clock this morning.

With the shares expected to open at a significant premium when dealings start next Monday, Government ministers and officials at Kleinwort, Benson are already preparing for the inevitable charges that the shares have been underpriced.

Geoffrey Pattie: will see applications counted

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Chancellor, fired a warning shot yesterday when he told Mrs Thatcher in House of Commons exchanges that Swiss and US bankers and brokers were buying BT shares forward at a 40 per cent premium to the initial partly paid price of 50p.

He accused the Government of bungling the sale and said the practice of buying shares forward before an issue had closed would be illegal if it was done by British subscribers.

Harvard Securities, the licensed dealers, said on Monday it had already done a deal selling 300,000 shares from an American underwriter of the issue to a London investment institution.

The Government also came under fire yesterday for the costs associated with the issue when Mr John Butcher, a junior Department of Trade and Industry minister, disclosed in a written reply that the Government faced costs of over £120m for the marketing of the shares in the City and overseas.

The Government can be expected, however, to make much of its success in broadening the spread of share ownership with the BT issue. Mr Geoffrey Pattie, the information technology minister, will visit the City tomorrow to see the share applications being counted.

Intasun bid rejected by Comfort

By Alison Eadie

Intasun, the package holiday group headed by Mr Harry Goodman, has made a £44.5 million bid for Comfort Hotels, in which it took a 14.97 per cent stake last month.

However, minutes after Intasun announced its bid, Comfort Hotels launched an agreed bid, worth £16.6 million in shares and £12.1 million in cash, for Prince of Wales Hotels. Comfort dismissed Intasun's bid as "wholly unacceptable" and its chairman, Mr Harry Edwards, said that price was not the relevant issue. Comfort's growth prospects are better if the group remains independent, he added.

Intasun will not pursue its bid for Comfort if the purchase of Prince of Wales is approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting. Intasun, as a shareholder, may well ask for an adjournment of that meeting to give Comfort shareholders a chance to consider the Intasun bid.

Intasun does not want POW, because its eight hotels are either in the provinces or in an inconvenient part of London. It wants Comfort because the 20 hotels it owns are concentrated in central London and Europe. Intasun's plan is to diversify into London and overseas hotels. It believes Comfort is paying too much for POW.

The terms of the two bids are two new Intasun shares and 130p cash for five Comfort shares and 98 Comfort shares for 54 POW shares or a cash alternative at 98p.

Comforts's shares rose 7p to 74p, POW's rose 6p to 121p and Intasun's rose 3p to 113p.

Stalemate in battle for Cullen's

By Jeremy Warner

The extraordinary three-way battle for control of Cullen's Stores, the ailing grocery and off-licence chain, appeared to have reached stalemate last night.

Mr Lew Cartier, the supermarkets entrepreneur, succeeded in persuading G.T. Management, one of the largest institutional shareholders in Cullen's to accept his bid after raising his terms to £8.2 million. This has created a situation where none of the three contenders for the company can gain outright control unless one bows out.

Mr Cartier already has backing for his bid from Mr David Cullen and G.Y.'s decision to give an irrevocable undertaking to accept the new offer has given him control over nearly 35 per cent of the group's voting shares.

Ranged against him is the 32.4 per cent of the voters committed to an earlier £7.9 million bid by Watling (105); a company set up by three men who resigned recently from top jobs with Imperial Group so as to be free to bid for Cullen's.

The whip hand appears to be held by Mr John Fletcher, the former Asda stores group managing direcor. He also has a bid in for Cullen's but owns only 10.1 per cent of the voting shares.

Cullen's voting ordinary shares closed 5p higher at 480p, 20p more than Mr Cartier's cash bid. There is also an alternative offer from Mr Cartier, worth 260p in cash and two shares in a new company form every Cullen's voting share.

Telerate profits lift Exco

By William Kay, City Editor

Shares in Exco International rose 5p late last night, after the news from New York that Telerate, in which Exco holds a 51 per cent stake, has increased pretax profits from $36.3m (£30.2m) to $58.7m, on sales $46m higher at $114m.

This has pushed earnings per share up from 48 cents to 65 cents, and the quarterly dividend from five cents to eight cents.

During the year to the end of September, the number of installed Telerate terminals rose from 11,000 to 14,000 worldwide.

The company's earnings increase stemmed from a continuing flow of domestic orders, both from first-time subscribers and established users.

Exco sees Telerate as the basis for an international financial information system, through which investors will ultimately be able to deal in any type of financial security.

Hurdles facing the Stock Exchange, page 17

Norway plans another oil price cut

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Norway is planning to bring its oil price for December contract into line with Britain's but is waiting to the last possible moment before announcing any price change for fear of starting a chain reaction.

Norway's crude on official one-month contracts is priced 30 cents above the official market price for Britain's North Sea Brent crude at $28.65 a barrel from the British National Oil Corporation (Bnoc).

Spot- market prices are more than £1.50 lower and Norway's state oil trading operation, like Bnoc, has been losing money as it is forced to buy-in oil at its market price but has been seen its customers move increasingly to the spot markets.

It was Norway's last price cut which, when followed by Britain and then Nigeria, forced the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to agree ne production cuts

A spokesman for the Statoil said that Norway will try to hold off announcing its December price as long as possible but is already aware that oil traders feel that a cut to bring prices into line with Britain's will bot be enough.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Half-year profit up at Rothman

Rothman's International, the cigarettes group, yesterday announced half-year profits of £84.4 million against £75.9 million for the same period last year. Sales were £23 million higher at £779 million. The interim dividend is raised from 2p a share to 2.2p. Sir David Nicolson, the chairman, is retiring at the end of next month

● ALLIED-LYONS is paying an interim dividend of 2.6p (2.42p) for the 28 weeks to September 15, after pretax profits improved from £90.5 million to £100.8 million.

Tempus, page 16

● BEECHAM, the pharmaceuticals and consumer products group, has increased pretax profit for the half year to September 30 to £142.8 million up from £127.4 million. Turnover increased from £950.8 million to £1,087 million. The interim dividend is increased to 5.1p against 4.6p last time.

Tempus, page 16

● COURTAULDS, the textiles group, reported pretax profits for the half year to the end of September, up 14 per cent from £47.7 million to £54.3 million. The interim dividend is being raised from 1.2p to 1.4p.

Tempus, page 16

● EAST LANCASHIRE Paper Group shares shot up 12p to a record high at 109p on the announcement that the company has received an approach, which may or may not lead to a bid, from an unnamed third party.

Currys sales 'success'

By Christopher Dunn

A jubilant Mr Terry Curry yesterday claimed that the new retailing formula of the revamped Currys Group was working beyond expectations and urged shareholders yet again to reject the £240 million-plus offer from Dixons Group, which closes next Friday.

According to Mr Curry, managing director of Currys, the group's first new superstore, which opened in Birmingham in October, took £250,000 in its first week, and boosted central Birmingham sales by 70 per cent, compared with 1983. The newly opened Newcastle superstore has seen equally spectacular gains.

Mr Curry also forecast record Christmas trading for the group.

Later, the Dixons camp rejected the claims of the Currys Group as unrealistic.

Stockley wins go-ahead for high-tech park at Heathrow

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Stockley, the property development company set up by Mr Stuart Lipton, Mr Elliott Bernerd and Mr Jacob Rothschild, has obtained planning permission for its 340-acre Stockley Park development close to Heathrow airport with £75 million of funding for the project from the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

The funding is believed to be the largest single transaction undertaken by an institution in the United Kingdom. The USS will have the option to own a plum site of 30 acres at Stockley Park and will develop 500,000 sq ft of space. There will be an initial speculative development of 120,000 sq ft in three buildings on the business park.

The financial arrangements with the USS, which was originally involved in the project with Trust Securities before Stockley took it over, mean that the fund will put up £50 million of development money with a £25 million 10-year debenture loan at 10 per cent. The money will pay for the first phase of the development and for all the infrastructure works on the site.

The costs will be high as the scheme is being built on what was a rubbish tip.

The land has been put together by Hillingdon Council and Stockley with the council handing over the freehold of its part to the developer. In return, Stockley will build a golf course for the council.

Stockley will then have permission for 1.5 million sq ft of space on the rest of the site for which it will have to find tenants and funding. Stockley will participate from any profits arising from the USS development and will be left with an asset in the shape of serviced land close to Heathrow, an area much in demand from electrical and computer companies.

Stockley's shareholders will be asked to approve a resolution next month allowing the USS to subscribe for 10 million ordinary shares at 73p a share.

Planning permission and funding arrangements will not take effect until this is approved. USS has given an undertaking to Hillingdon council that if it withdraws the development facility or the debenture loan, the fund will either carry out the works itself or pay for their completion up to a ceiling of £16.15 million. This enables the USS to allocate £10.7 million of the debenture loan to the cost of the site works.

The USS is being advised by Jones Lang Wootton, the chartered surveyor, which will be the letting agent with Michael Laurie & Partners, Mr Bernerd's firm, and Grant & Partners.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Interest hopes help index to record

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Shares, as measured by the FT 30 share index, climbed to a new peak yesterday. Encouraged by interest rate hopes and the expectation that the British Telecom floatation will be an outstanding success, leaders were in buoyant form with the index hitting 925.3 points, a 3.2 points gain.

But trading was often pathetically thin. It was the absence of any significant sellers rather than any buying strength which helped prices.

Spotting the next BAT Industries takeover target has become a favourite stock market pastime. One candidate attracting increasing attention is H. Samuel, the jeweller. BAT is keen on the jewellery world and Samuel must look like a realistically priced short-cut for the tobacco conglomerate. The non-voting shares at 81p look a reasonable speculation.

Demand was selective and often confined to special situations. The more broadly based FT SE share index was 1,178.0 points at the close, 8 points below its best level.

Debenhams, the department stores group, was an outstanding feature 4p to a 218p peak amid speculation that the long suspected takover bid was about to materialize.

But the company secretary, Mr Nicholas Webster, said: "There has not been a takover approach".

Market men, however, believe that, even without a bid Debenhams shares are looking attractive. the reorganization directed so successfully by Mr Robert Thornton, the chairman, is clearly paying off. The Welbeck credit side it continuing to progress. With bumper Christmas trading in prospect the company seems eminently capable of achieving about £47 million in the year to the end of January.

Harris Queesway, a business associate of Debenhams gained 2p to 212p a high for the shares. Capel-Cure Myers, the stockbroker, has shown steady support for Harris in recent weeks, letting it be known that it regards the rating in the furnishings retailer as too low.

"We think the share price should be nearer £3 than £2", say the analystis team at Capel-Cure. Given the recent strength in the share prices of rivals such as MFI and Home Charm – big store chains which are likely to benefit from changes in Sunday trading laws there is plenty of logic to back the brokers' "buy" tag.

Good news from the Ministry if Defence helped Ferranti recover much of Monday's markdown in the share price. The ministry has confirmed an order for upgrading of the radar system for the Sea Harrier aircraft, worth £100 million to the Scottish electronics group. The order has been on its way since summer last year, but Ferranti shares appreciated the confirmation and rose 4p to 174p.

The snooker professional Mr Rex Williams is bringing his business, Rex Williams Leisure, to the USM via a placing at about 20p a share by Margetts and Addenbrooke, the broker. RWL offers a pool and snooker service to pubs and clubs. Profits for the year ending next Friday are forecast at £165,000 (£91,000). About 55 per cent of the equity is being placed.

British Aerospace, which suffered alongside Ferranti earlier in the week of a £1,000 million Saudi contract going to French aircraft makers, also recovered ground, rising 10p to 361p.

Tace, the second-line electronics stock, was moving firmly ahead again; the shares rose 10p to another new high of 308p. Investors are showing enthusiasm for Tace's 62.5 per cent holding in **Goring Kerr**, which in turn has shown some pace in its share price on news of good demand for its detection systems products in the US. Goring shares gained 10p to 405p

At that price the Tace holding in Goring is worth £15.18 million, or 240p a share, and Tace itself is reckoned to be doing well. Sheppards & Chase, brokers to the company, forecast full-year profits of £2.25 million against £1.22 million last year.

The shares of **Security Centres Holdings** plummeted 33p to 200p, equalling their low for the year despite the announcement of interim pretax profits up 53 per cent to £2.7 million.

The company announced it was selling its British alarm installation and monitoring businesses for £8.5 million to **Automated Security Holdings**. ASH shares closed 5p lower at 73p.

Security Centres is also buying the whole of the share capital of Defence Systems International for £1 million. The company said the British alarms installation business would require a high, continuing level of capital expenditure to achieve acceptable levels of profitability.

Bank shares, after their distress on talk on Saudi Arabian problems, recovered strongly, helped by some bullish broker comments.

Although prices closed a shade below their best levels **Lloyds**, which was hardest hit by the sellers, closed 15p higher at 529p.

Insurance shares were also in form. Composites, helped by vague talk of bid developments, were strong with **Royal Insurance** gaining 20p to 553p and **Commercial Union** rising 4p to 175p.

Thorn EMI was in the wars, dipping by 12p to 477p at one stage, before closing at 484p. A chat on Tuesday with James Capel, the stockbroker and a selection fo institutional shareholders caused concern. But later in the day, analysts began looking forward to a closer view of Inmos and its micro-chip produetions. Analysts will visit Inmos on December 10.

International Signal and Control kept up its cheerful response to news of a US acquisition. IS&C is paying around £31 million in cash and shares for Zeta Laboratories, a high technology group.

Also among electrical companies, **Volex Group** jumped 13p to 133p, close to its high for the year, after Monday's news of an almost doubled interim payment. The half-year dividend went up from 1.3p to 2.5p, although profits showed more modest progress in rising from £1.32 million to £1.61 million.

On the carmakers lists, **Jaguar** was again moving sharply, the shares gaining 3p to 220p on continued US buying support. The weak state of sterling in trade against the dollar also helps Jaguar, given the company's high level of trade in the US.

Automotive Products, the spare parts and components makers for the motor industry, was also gaining ground, rising 4p to 67p. The company revealed increased demand for its products at the time of its half year results in September.

The **Intasun** bid for **Comfort Hotels International** and CHI's offer for **Prince of Wales Hotels**, had the rest of the market's provincial hotels portfolio in a spin. **Queens Moat Houses** jumped 3p to 52p; **Mount Charlotte Investments** gained 3½p to 71½p

TEMPUS

Allied-Lyons falls foul of market fears

Allied-Lyons produced interim figures nearly up to market expectations at £100.8 million, an improvement of 11.4 per cent. But the market, mindful of Whitbread's 15.2 per cent improvement, noted that property profits had more than doubled to £10.9 million, and registered its disapproval in the usual way. At one stage, the shares were down 10p to 160p, before recovering to 164p.

The Allied board was probably slightly bemused by the reaction. Beer profits were ahead by about 14 per cent to £54.4 million, and the group says that beer volumes have held steady, compared with a national fall of about 1 per cent, and Whitbread's even worse performance.

The wine and spirit profits again look reasonable, at £27.2 million, given that the Christmas selling season is crucial to the year's overall performance. Food profits advanced by about 11 per cent to £25.1 million.

Allied has some good news to tell on the beer new products side; Castlemaine XXXX is now moving towards national distribution. Tables wines, where volume really matters, enjoyed a sharp lift-off in demand after the Budget, and sales gains here appear to have outweighed the tougher going in fortified wines and cider.

Private label business with supermarkets and other retailers is still moving ahead rapdily, perhaps helping to outweigh the selective impact on sales of the miners' strike.

The market's fears are partly the result of a generalized sense of malaise over the figures. A fairly depressing statement dit not allay this. Allied refers to acute competition for volume, accompanied by margin pressures, and this comment is validated by the low sales gain of just 9.5 per cent; Whitbread turnover advanced by nearly 17 per cent. The outcome for the year may be just satisfactory.

Yet there are more specific causes for apprehension. Finance charges are ahead by £5 million to £28.6 million. The drive to cut costs shows up in reduced head office charges, and Allied is also talking about working capital pressures, after higher tra and coffee prices. Gearing is now about 28 per cent of equity, and a mere 1 per cent gain in earnings may reflect cash flow pressures.

Significantly, Bass, which reports full-year figures next week, put on 5p yesterday to 443p. Its price relative has consistently outperformed Allied-Lyons' in the last year. Have Allied figures provided a buying signal for Bass?

Courtaulds

Analysts have been revising down their profit forecast for Courtaulds for more than a month so the textile group's less-than-sparkling performance for the half year to the end of September caused few surprises when unveiled yesterday. Pretax profits were up from £47.7 million to only £54.3million.

A better than expected 17 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 1.4m helped to relieve disappointment and the shares closed 2p higher at 123p.

The cyclical downturn in man-made fibres, which began to set in towards the end of last March, is more or less the whole story. Exports, accounting for between a third and a half of the group's fibre sales, were particularly badly affected, falling by about 17 per cent during the first half as a whole though this was partly due to timing differences in sales to Eastern block countries.

However, all the signs are that the bottom of the cycle will be relatively shallow and probably no further away than the middle of next year. Moreover, the downturn has given the company the excuse to trim back further on viscose capacity at its two British plants.

If nothing else, the cyclical fall-off in demand has shown just how effective the group's five-year rationalization programme has been in limiting the effect of volume fluctuations on profits. Despite the decline in exports, the fall in operating profits in the fibre sector during the first half was a relatively modest £3.2 million to £27.6 million, and, if anything, helped by price rises, margins actually improved.

In the rest of the group, profits at BCL were affected by one off costs associated with new investment. The clothing division, which relies on Marks and Spencer, continued to make spectacular progress on the back of greater operating efficiencies.

After recent setbacks, the shares begin to look relatively good value. But the answer to the old question of what the group will do on a corporate level now that its house has been set in order remains as inscrutable as ever.

Beecham Group

Beecham's reputation as a quality company managed to steer it through yesterday's somewhat mediocre results. The increase in the share price by 1p to 366p owed more to relief on the market's part than a genuine belief that the company had overcome its difficulties on the pharmaceutical side.

Pretax profits of £142.8 million, up by 12 per cent, were flattered by the full six months' benefit of the rights issue. After stripping out this and the effect of the acquisitions, the underlying growth looks much less attractive.

The group is still suffering from problems in Nigeria, where import licences for pharmaceuticals are just beginning to trickle through again, and Japan where the effects of drug price cutting still bite hard. Beecham estimates these two countries cost the group £10 million in lost profits.

There are still problems in Britain's pharmaceutical business which is at best stagnant. The Government's efforts to curb drug prices are forcing the group to finance operations from the more successful consumer products where brand names such as Lucozade and Horlicks remain strong.

The bright spot for Beechams is the United States which now contributes a third of the group profits and will soon exceed 50 per cent. All aspects of the US activities improvefd and the antibiotics Augmentin had a successful launch in September.

Full year profits of £315 million are in sight, boosted by favourable currency fluctuations. However, the increased tax charge will hit earnings per share

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1984 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
160	118	Aberdeen	153 ●	..	7.5	4.9
86	56	Alsa	84	..	1.9	2.2
568	438	Alliance	563	+6	20.7	3.7
115	88½	Amer	111	+1	3.6	3.3
268	218	Ang Amer Sec	264	+2	7.8	2.8
78	63½	Ang Ira	56 ●	..	9.3	16.9
600	384	Ang Int Ass	475	..		
159	115	Ang Scot	158	..	4.0	2.6
[illegible]						

1984 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
175	120	GT Japan	160	..	2.0	1.3
538	433	General Funds	533	..	12.9	2.4
235	184	General Cons	228	+2	12.0	5.3
104	77	Glasgow Stock	102	+1	2.6	2.8
247	197	Globe	243	+1	12.9	5.3
215	176	Greenfriar	200	+2	1.9	1.0
250	167½	Gresham House	225	-5	5.7	2.5
141	114	Hambros	134 ●	..	5.4	4.1
[illegible]						

1984 High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
38	32½	Stewart Enterp	35	..	[illegible]	1.8	..
117	93	Stockholders	111 ●	..	3.4	3.1	..
111	76	Tr Australia	94 ●	-2	2.9	3.0	..
75	59	Tr City Of Lon Dfd	75 ●	+1	4.4b	5.9	..
143	121	Tr Ind & Gen	142 ●	+1	4.8b	3.4	..
280	201	Tr Natural Res	241 ●	+1	10.7	4.4	..
178	150	Tr North America	160 ●	..	4.9b	3.0	..
273	192	Tr Pacific Basin	258	..	2.9b	1.1	..
[illegible]							

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

[illegible]

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

1983/84 High Bid	Low Offer	Trust	Bid	Offer	Yield
[illegible]					

Insurance Bonds and Funds

[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

John Gunn, who vaulted the Berlin wall, explains to William Kay the hurdles facing the Stock Exchange

Why London will have to go international

Mr John Gunn, the outspoken chairman of Exco International, makes no bones about it. He thinks many of the present members of the London Stock Exchanges are in for a rude shock when freely negotiated brokers' commissions are introduced in 1986. "Everyone is saying things must change and fervently hoping they will not".

Exco International, the City money broking group, is one of the Stock Exchange outsiders which is determined to make an impact when the Big Bang happens. It has bought a 29 per cent stake in a stockbroking firm, Galloway and Pearson, and is setting up an inter-dealer broker operation.

And more yet: Exco controls Telerate, an electronic financial information system, which Mr Gunn cogently argues is far superior to Topic, the screen-based system at present distributed round the offices of London's brokers, jobbers and anyone else prepared to subscribe. This "superiority" however, would be seen in full,

'Present system is absolutely prehistoric and a disgrace'

state-of-the-art flower only if and when the Stock Exchange agrees to full disclosure of the price and volume in which deals are done. Not surprisingly that, is another issue on which Mr Gunn has firm views.

"I believe that one of the greatest tasks for the Stock Exchange is to make information about volume and price totally available to as many people as possible. They are going to need a lot more volume and more market-makers to interest people in coming into the market".

As for the present system, Mr Gunn says: "It is absolutely prehistoric. It is a disgrace. Availability and transparency of information is the greatest aid to liquidity in any market."

"Information is as important as any of the changes being proposed. I am a great believer that the advent of reliable and full 24-hour information systems – and I am talking about Reuters and Telerate – have made people happier to be in the foreign exchange markets. It has made it possible for them to see where the market is, and to see how to get out of situations. It is the out you have to be confident about."

The fact that Exco, a money broker converted into a wide financial services group, has an axe to grind does not invalidate his arguments. Any newcomer is bound to arrive with a fresh pair of eyes. In fact, the stock market is going to have to get used to such uncompromising observations from the likes of Mr Gunn, and his foreign counterparts, over the next few years.

Being an outsider is no hardship to him. He freely admits he has always been a loner, from the time when, as a child, he used to go for long bicycle rides through the Cheshire countryside. He read German at Nottingham University and spent a lot of time in his early twenties helping East Germans to cross the Berlin wall. That is how he met his wife, Renate: she left the east two days before the wall went up.

It was expediency which led him to seek a job with Barclays Bank. "The banks seemed to offer the prospect of being able to use my foreign language and travel abroad", he admits today. He soon gravitated to the foreign exchange department in Manchester, and thence to dealing in London. At this stage an early ability with mental arithmetic came to the fore.

But for people of Mr Gunn's experience Barclays could not compete with the salaries being offered by other firms in the City. He moved into money broking and before long found himself at the head of a group of young dealers running a firm which, for the want of something better, they called Exco: the accountancy textbooks always use "X Co." as the name of the anonymous firm in thier examples.

The anonymity and lack of pretension suited him. "That year in Berlin was the most *formative year of my life*", he recalls. "It enabled me to spend time away from England, in another culture. When I returned, for the first few weeks I found it easier to speak German than English. So I do not take a particularly English view of the world around me. The experience has enabled me to build a business that is never more than *20 per cent in this country.*"



'The able people will become much sought after and very expensive'

Nowadays, Exco is involved in a wide range of financial services, from money broking to unit trusts, in an unbroken 24-hour-a-day chain that spans the globe. It has certain obvious gaps, including the need for a place on the stock exchanges of Tokyo and New York.

But the skeleton is in place, and Mr Gunn is interested in any type of role as a financial intermediary, anywhere in the world.

Of the forthcoming developments in London, he says: "The big question is whether all the capital is being put in in concentrated enough form for the British market makers in gilts or equities to capture a sufficient share of the market, given that some of the big American or Japanese houses have not made a move."

In that light, Mr Gunn feels that it is more important to acquire people than ready-made companies. "The able people will become much sought after and very expensive", he predicts. "That cost structure is going to change quite considerably, in that you are likely to have a smaller number of really active participants, but those who make it will earn more. I think we will see tremendous labour mobility. It's going to be very hard for some institutions to compete if they do not have the right salary package."

He maintains that the London Stock Exchange has been slow to react to he changing climate, doing very little to make London an international market. "There's been no incentive for the firms on the stock market to become internationally minded."

Mr Gunn expects that Britain will have between two and four firms in the international superleague of securities houses, which will be about our due. The ones being set up by Barclays and National Westminister banks should do well. He thinks it unlikely that the group based on Mercury Securities will achieve that status; rather, it will be in the second division, along with the likes of Sachroders and Kleinwort, Benson. Below that will be out-and-out brokers, and a number of "*boutique*" *businesses offering* specialized services.

"There will be a lot of consolidation. Many London firms will find it difficult to stay as they are. A lot will not survive. We have seen it in the discount market. The way people tritely say 'We will make a market in this or that' without having done it before, is brave if not foolhardy. And there are those who will take a longer-term view and try to buy a market share."

In the process, we are likely *to repeat the US experience of* a messy shakeout. Mr Gunn believes that may be no bad thing. "The whole thing is going to become slicker, more professional, more mindful of the customer", he says. "I see it opening up. The stock market trading will tend to become like foreign exchange and bond trading: wherever there is a market open, stocks will be traded."

Some, like ICI or British Telecom, will be like the sterling-dollar or dollar-yen *exchange rates, traded everywhere*, all the time. That in turn will gradually remove the drama associated with dealing in foreign stocks, leading to more international markets. Such an outcome would be tailor-made for a group in Exco's position, with the global *spread and inbuilt expertise* in the money and foreign exchange markets, which will increasingly act as the lubricant for securities trading of all kinds.

Mr Gunn urges caution against any glib self-confidence about such frameworks. "The phrase, 'international securities house', trips off the tongue, but it is quite a staggering undertaking. You cannot treat our market in isolation. We in *London have been a goldfish* bowl, and it has to change. It is only when people cling to outmoded privileges for too

'We in London have been a goldfish bowl, and it has to change'

long that it gets painful when they are taken away. We believe that there is going to be a lot of blood on the streets.

"In four or five years we will be much, much stronger and *able to make a proper decision* on whether we want to stay a broker or become a market maker or a securities house in the full sense of the word. We believe it is better to buy at leisure. Even if you pay more, you pay with more certainty."

● On Friday, the City's leading revolutionary, Mr Gordon Pepper, of W. Greenwell & Co.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● **AUTOMATED SECURITY (HOLDINGS)** has agreed to buy the assets and undertaking of the British electronic security business of security business of Security Centres Holdings. The price is estimated at £6.5 million, payable at completion, with a further £2 million payable over five years.

● **SECURITY CENTRES HOLDINGS** has conditionally agreed to buy Defence Systems International for an initial price of (£1 million) half-year to Sept. 30. Figures in millions. £2.7 (£1.76) Turnover £14.38 (£8.79) Interim payment 1p (0.9p).

● **INVESTMENT CO:** Half-year to Sept 30. Pretax profit £690,000

● **JOHN CARR (DONCASTER):** Year to Sept 30. Figures in millions Turnover £47.21 (41.46). Pretax profit £7.81 (£7.04) Total dividend raised from 1.24p (adjusted) to 1.45p a share.

● **PARKLAND TEXTILE:** Half-year to Aug 31. Interim 1.6p (same). Figs in £000. Group turnover 24,785 (20,428). Pretax profit 91 (807).

● **WHITBREAD'S** retail division has strengthened its position as a discotheque-owner with the acquisition of Ray Bain Holdings. This purchase of six discos for £1.1 million will give Whitbread a total of 33.

● **HILL THOMSON & CO:** Results for six months to July 31. (Figures in £000). Turnover, excluding duty, 4,653 (3,810). Pretax profit, 483 (473). Tax 160 (4).

● **STOCKLAKE HOLDINGS:** The chairman, Mr A. M. McKay, says in his annual statement that the group has continued to trade profitably this year.

● **CENTURY OILS:** Half-year to Sept 30. Interim 1p (same). Figs in £000. Turnover 36,446 (37,409). Pretax profit 148 (1,922). The board remains optimistic that after the miners' strike the group will return to record levels of trading.

● ***SAMUELSON GROUP:*** Contracts have been completed with Theatre Projects Ltd for Sealworth, a new offshoot of Samuelson, to acquire the equipment rental assets of TPL used in theatre and live presentation activities, for £1.61 million cash. Sealworth has also assumed hire purchase and leasing commitments of £284,000 attaching to the equipment rental assets.

● ***GILBERT HOUSE INVESTMENTS:*** No div for six months to Sept 28. Figs in £000. Gross rents receivable 229 (159), less property expenses 5 (4). Pretax profit 121 (28).

RECENT ISSUES

RECENT ISSUES	Closing Price
Access Satellite Int 5p Ord (150)	192
Addison Comm 2p Ord (116a)	178
Alida Holdings 25p Ord (140a)	152+3
Appledore A & P 10p Ord (87)	88
Breakmate 10p Ord (100a)	102
Brit Bloodstock Ag 25p Ord (165a)	225
CVD Inc Com Stock $0.01 (105a)	130−3
Checkpoint Europe 25p Ord (a)	140
Comp Fin Serv 5p Ord (85a)	82
Craton Lodge & Knight 1p Ord (115a)	166
Gabicci 5p Ord (78a)	99
Hawtal Whiting 5p Ord (197a)	243+14
Inutem 10p Ord (145a)	173
Klark-Teknik 5p Ord (85a)	110
Media Technology 20p Ord (117a)	147+1
Oldacre Hldgs 20p Ord	108
PSM Int 25p (140)	156+1
Plasmec 10p Ord (70a)	75
Second Market Inv 5p Ord (10)	11½
Shares Drug Stores 10p Ord (140a)	190+2
Stone International 20p Ord (125)	140
T & S Stores 5p Ord (a)	116
Trade Promotion 10p Ord (75a)	80
U D O Holdings 10p Ord (110a)	125
Wates City of Lon Prop 25p Ord (100)	112+1

*Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. * by tender.*

In The High Court of Justice (England)
Chancery Division
Companies Court **Mr. Registrar Bradburn** **No. 00502 of 1981**

IN THE MATTER OF ELISA COMMODITIES LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that by an Order dated the 18th October 1984 made in the above matters the Court has directed separate Meetings to be convened of (1) Trade Creditors (being creditors of the above-named Elisa Commodities Limited (hereinafter called 'the Company') whose names appear in the First Schedule hereto and any other creditors (other than Finance Creditors as hereinafter defined) who give written notice of their claims to William Frederick Ratford and Christopher Timothy Esmond Hayward or any other duly appointed Liquidator or Liquidators of the Company (the Liquidators) not less than 48 hours before the meeting of the Trade Creditors) and (2) Finance Creditors (being the creditors of the Company whose names appear in the Second Schedule hereto and any other Bank or creditor for monies lent or advances made to or on behalf of the Company and who gives written notice of its claim to the Liquidators not less than 48 hours before the meeting of the Finance Creditors) for the purpose of considering and if thought fit approving (with or without modification) a Scheme of Arrangement proposed to be made between the Company and (1) its Trade Creditors and (2) its Finance Creditors and that such Meetings will be held at 1 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3PD, England, on Wednesday the 19th December 1984, at the respective times below mentioned, namely:

(1) The Meeting of the Trade Creditors at 10 o'clock in the forenoon:

(2) The Meeting of the Finance Creditors at 11 o'clock in the forenoon (or so soon thereafter as the preceding Meeting shall have been concluded or adjourned)

at which place and respective times all the aforesaid Trade Creditors and Finance Creditors are requested to attend.

Any person entitled to attend the said Meetings can obtain copies of the said Scheme of Arrangement, forms of Proxy and copies of the Statement required to be furnished pursuant to Section 207 of the above-mentioned Act, at the offices of William Frederick Ratford and Christopher Timothy Esmond Hayward, the joint Liquidators of the Company, at 1 Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, London EC4V 3PD, England, and at the office of the undermentioned Solicitors at the address mentioned below during usual business hours on any day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) prior to the day appointed for the said Meetings.

THE SAID TRADE CREDITORS AND FINANCE CREDITORS MAY VOTE IN PERSON AT SUCH OF THE SAID MEETINGS AS THEY ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND OR THEY MAY APPOINT ANOTHER PERSON WHETHER A CREDITOR OF THE CLASS OR NOT AS THEIR PROXY TO ATTEND AND VOTE IN THEIR STEAD.

It is requested that forms appointing proxies be lodged with the said William Frederick Ratford and Christopher Timothy Esmond Hayward at 1 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3PD, not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for the said Meetings, but if forms are not so lodged they may be handed to the Chairman at the Meeting at which they are to be used.

By the said Order the Court has appointed William Frederick Ratford or failing him Christopher Timothy Esmond Hayward to act as Chairman of each of the said Meetings and has directed the Chairman to report the results thereof to the Court.

The said Scheme of Arrangement will be subject to the subsequent approval of the Court.

DATED this 20th day of November 1984.

Messrs. Travers Smith, Braithwaite & Co.,
6 Snow Hill,
London EC1A 2AL
England
Solicitors for the said Joint Liquidators of the above-named Company.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE BEFORE REFERRED TO
Aarhus Oliefabrik A/S Andre & Cie S.A. Atramel Pvba Comptoir Commercial Andre & Cie S.A. Dalgety Spillers Dansk Landbrugs Grovvareselskab De Franceschi S.P.A. Monfalcone Ets Soules & Cie F.A. Voight & Co. B.V. Ferri Ernesto & Figli S.R.L. Koninklijke J. Willebeek Le Mair & Co. B.V. Oleifico Luigi Tomaghi S.A.S. Mazzotti & Co. S.R.L. E. Kampffmeyer Muskator-Werke Hermann Schmidt Gmbh & Co. K.G. Oleificio Zucchi S.P.A. Ononbel B.V. Pagnan S.P.A. Petrobas Petroles Brasiliero S.A. Renzo & Riccardo Lenzi S.N.C Sanko Steamship Co. Ltd. Societe Generale de Surveillance S.A. Bess Pet Products Ltd. Otello Mantovani

THE SECOND SCHEDULE BEFORE REFERRED TO
Amro Bank Arn Thoed Solling & Co. Banco Nazionale del Lavoro Bank Mees & Hope N.V. Banque Bruxelles Lambert Banque de L'Union Europeenne Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas (Suisse) S.A. Compafina Bank Credit Agricole Credit Commercial de France Credit Lyonnais Dibeag Banking Corporation Ibero Amerika Bank Pierson, Heldring & Pierson N.V. Union Bank of Switzerland United Overseas Bank Winding Finance Corporation S.A.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT and FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range November 27	Market rates close November 27	1 month	3 months
New York	$1.2010-1.2105	$1.2085-1.2095	0.10-0.08c prem	0.13-0.10c prem
Montreal	$1.5850-1.5975	$1.5965-1.5975	0.14-0.20c disc	0.38-0.46c disc
Amsterdam	4.1387-4.1700fl	4.1600-4.1700fl	1⅛-⅞c prem	4⅛-3⅞c prem
Brussels	73.85-74.46f	74.30-74.40f	2-8c disc	9-18c disc
Copenhagen	13.2480-13.2900k	13.2780-13.2850k	1½-2¾ore disc	6½-7¼ore disc
Frankfurt	3.6688-3.6975m	3.6875-3.6975m	1¼-1⅛pf prem	3⅞-3⅝pf disc
Lisbon	197.20-200.90e	198.30-200.85e	190-620e disc	676-1725e disc
Madrid	206.20-207.00p	206.75-206.95p	30-60p disc	120-175p disc
Milan	2275.70-2289.20lr	2280.50-2282.50lr	8-10lr disc	27-30lr disc
Oslo	10.6650-10.7100k	10.7000-10.7100k	2¾-3¾ore disc	9-9¾ore disc
Paris	11.2440-11.3200f	11.3076-11.3175f	⅞-1⅛c disc	3⅞-4⅜c disc
Stockholm	10.50-10.54k	10.53-10.54k	1⅝-2⅛ore disc	5⅞-5⅞ore disc
Tokyo	294.48-296.76y	296.50-297.00y	1-⅞y prem	2⅝-2¼y prem
Vienna	25.76-26.00sch	25.94-25.99sch	5⅞-4⅞gro prem	15-12gro prem
Zurich	3.0287-3.0525f	3.0425-3.0525f	1⅛-1⅛c prem	3⅞-3⅝c prem
Dublin	1.1820-1.1890p	1.1862-1.1872p	42-58p disc	133-164p disc

Sterling index compared with 1975 was up 0.4 at 74.6 (day's range 74.6-74.2).

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.0170-1.0185
Singapore	2.1660-2.1675
Malaysia	2.4085-2.4100
Australia	0.8555-0.8565
Canada	1.3207-1.3212
Sweden	8.7125-8.7225
Norway	8.8500-8.8600
Denmark	10.9850-10.9950
West Germany	3.0510-3.0520
Switzerland	2.5160-2.5180
Netherlands	3.4390-3.4410
France	9.3450-9.3550
Japan	245.12-245.22
Italy	1187-1189
Belgium(Comm)	61.42-61.47
Hongkong	7.8245-7.8275
Portugal	163-166
Spain	171.00-171.20
Austria	21.45-21.47

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel.

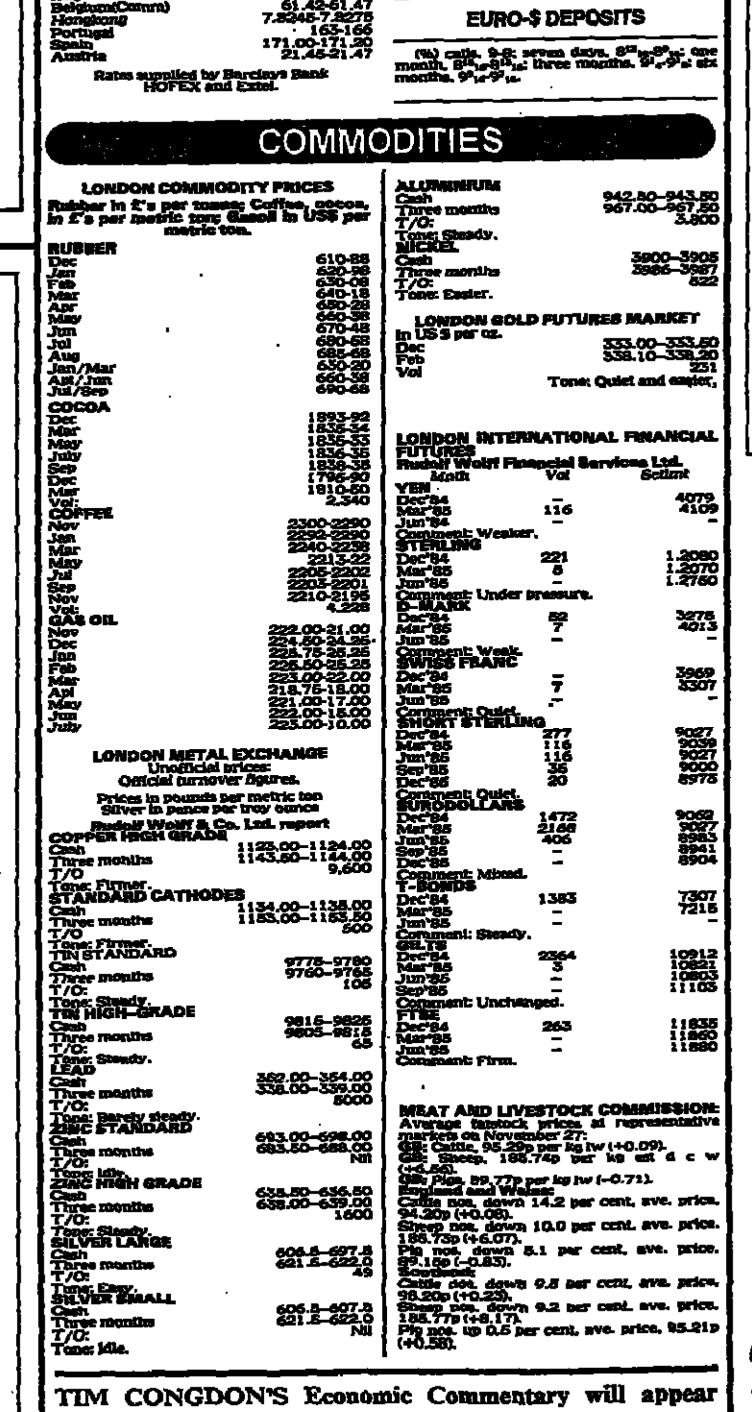
OTHER £ RATES

Australia	1.4113-1.4142
Bahrain	0.4510-0.4550
Finland	7.6695-7.7075
Greece	150.05-152.05
Hongkong	9.4715-9.4831
Iran	n.a.
Kuwait	0.3620-0.3660
Malaysia	2.9130-2.9174
Mexico	225-250
New Zealand	2.4754-2.4826
Saudi Arabia	4.26-4.30
Singapore	2.6219-2.6260
South Africa	2.2089-2.2149

EURO-$ DEPOSITS

(%) calls, 9-8; seven days, 8 13/16-8 9/16; one month, 8 15/16-8 13/16; three months, 9¼-9⅛; six months, 9 5/16-9 7/16.

COMMODITIES



LONDON COMMODITY PRICES

Rubber in £'s per tonne; Coffee, cocoa, in £'s per metric ton; Gasoil in US$ per metric ton.

RUBBER	
Dec	610-88
Jan	620-98
Feb	630-08
Mar	640-18
Apr	650-28
May	660-38
Jun	670-48
Jul	680-58
Aug	685-68
Jan/Mar	650-20
Apl/Jun	660-38
Jul/Sep	690-68
COCOA	
Dec	1893-92
Mar	1835-34
May	1835-33
July	1836-35
Sep	1838-38
Dec	1795-90
Mar	1810-50
Vol:	2,340
COFFEE	
Nov	2300-2290
Jan	2292-2290
Mar	2240-2238
May	2213-22
Jul	2205-2202
Sep	2203-2201
Nov	2210-2195
Vol:	4,228
GAS OIL	
Nov	222.00-21.00
Dec	224.50-24.25
Jan	225.75-25.25
Feb	225.50-25.25
Mar	223.00-22.00
Apl	218.75-18.00
May	221.00-17.00
Jun	222.00-15.00
July	223.00-10.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Unofficial prices: Official turnover figures.
Prices in pounds per metric ton
Silver in pence per troy ounce
Rudolf Wolff & Co. Ltd. report

COPPER HIGH GRADE	
Cash	1123.00–1124.00
Three months	1143.50–1144.00
T/O	9,600
Tone: Firmer.	
STANDARD CATHODES	
Cash	1134.00–1138.00
Three months	1153.00–1153.50
T/O	500
Tone: Firmer.	
TIN STANDARD	
Cash	9775–9780
Three months	9760–9765
T/O:	105
Tone: Steady.	
TIN HIGH–GRADE	
Cash	9815–9825
Three months	9805–9815
T/O:	65
Tone: Steady.	
LEAD	
Cash	352.00–354.00
Three months	338.00–339.00
T/O:	5000
Tone: Barely steady.	
ZINC STANDARD	
Cash	693.00–698.00
Three months	683.50–688.00
T/O:	Nil
Tone: Idle.	
ZINC HIGH GRADE	
Cash	635.50–636.50
Three months	638.00–639.00
T/O:	1600
Tone: Steady.	
SILVER LARGE	
Cash	606.5–607.5
Three months	621.5–622.0
T/O:	49
Tone: Easy.	
SILVER SMALL	
Cash	606.5–607.5
Three months	621.5–622.0
T/O:	Nil
Tone: Idle.	
ALUMINIUM	
Cash	942.50–943.50
Three months	967.00–967.50
T/O:	3,800
Tone: Steady.	
NICKEL	
Cash	3900–3905
Three months	3986–3987
T/O:	522
Tone: Easier.	

LONDON GOLD FUTURES MARKET

In US $ per oz.	
Dec	333.00–333.50
Feb	338.10–338.20
Vol	251

Tone: Quiet and easier.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL FUTURES

Rudolf Wolff Financial Services Ltd.

Mnth	Vol	Setlmt
YEN		
Dec'84	–	4079
Mar'85	116	4109
Jun'84	–	–
Comment: Weaker.		
STERLING		
Dec'84	221	1.2080
Mar'85	6	1.2070
Jun'85	–	1.2750
Comment: Under pressure.		
D-MARK		
Dec'84	52	3275
Mar'85	7	4013
Jun'85	–	–
Comment: Weak.		
SWISS FRANC		
Dec'84	–	3969
Mar'85	7	3307
Jun'85	–	–
Comment: Quiet.		
SHORT STERLING		
Dec'84	277	9027
Mar'85	116	9039
Jun'85	116	9027
Sep'85	35	9000
Dec'85	20	8975
Comment: Quiet.		
EURODOLLARS		
Dec'84	1472	9062
Mar'85	2168	9027
Jun'85	406	8983
Sep'85	–	8941
Dec'85	–	8904
Comment: Mixed.		
T-BONDS		
Dec'84	1383	7307
Mar'85	–	7215
Jun'85	–	–
Comment: Steady.		
GILTS		
Dec'84	2364	10912
Mar'85	3	10821
Jun'85	–	10803
Sep'85	–	11103
Comment: Unchanged.		
FTSE		
Dec'84	263	11835
Mar'85	–	11860
Jun'85	–	11880
Comment: Firm.		

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMISSION: Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 27:
GB: Cattle, 95.29p per kg lw (+0.09).
GB: Sheep, 188.74p per kg est d c w (+6.56).
GB: Pigs, 89.77p per kg lw (−0.71).
England and Wales:
Cattle nos. down 14.2 per cent, ave. price, 94.20p (+0.08).
Sheep nos. down 10.0 per cent, ave. price, 188.73p (+6.07).
Pig nos. down 5.1 per cent, ave. price, 89.15p (−0.83).
Scotland:
Cattle nos. down 9.5 per cent, ave. price, 98.20p (+0.23).
Sheep nos. down 9.2 per cent, ave. price, 188.77p (+8.17).
Pig nos. up 0.5 per cent, ave. price, 95.21p (+0.58).

TIM CONGDON'S Economic Commentary will appear tomorrow

COURTAULDS PLC

Interim Results

Unaudited results for the half year to 30 September 1984 are:-

1983/84 1st Half £m	1983/84 2nd Half £m		1984/85 1st Half £m
973.4	1,064.7	**Turnover to External Customers**	**1,038.2**
438.1	479.1	Turnover to UK Customers	**441.7**
202.5	230.0	Exports from UK (including inter-group)	**216.5**
362.1	386.6	Turnover Overseas	**412.2**
28.8	43.9	**Operating Profit – UK**	**26.3**
25.3	29.5	– Overseas	**32.3**
54.1	73.4	– Total	**58.6**
1.1	1.0	Share of Profits of Related Companies	**1.9**
(7.5)	(4.3)	Interest Payable net of Investment Income	**(6.2)**
47.7	70.1	**Profit on Ordinary Activities before Taxation**	**54.3**
(2.0)	(5.2)	Taxation – UK (including ACT £2.3m)	**(2.4)**
(8.3)	(12.9)	– Overseas	**(9.9)**
(10.3)	(18.1)		**(12.3)**
37.4	52.0	**Profit on Ordinary Activities after Taxation**	**42.0**
* (5.3)	(6.5)	Minority Interests	**(4.0)**
* 32.1	45.5	**Courtaulds Shareholders' Interest**	**38.0**
(0.1)	–	Preference Dividends	**(0.1)**
* 32.0	45.5	**Courtaulds Ordinary Shareholders' Interest**	**37.9**
*9.26p	12.00p	Earnings per Ordinary Share before Extraordinary Items	**9.99p**

**Restated to reflect the issue of Courtaulds shares for International Paint shares*

The breakdown of the Operating Profit between Product Groups is as follows:-

1983/84 1st Half £m	1983/84 2nd Half £m		1984/85 1st Half £m
30.8	38.1	Fibres	**27.6**
5.8	7.2	Fabrics	**7.5**
3.8	12.3	Clothing	**7.1**
11.2	8.4	International Paint	**12.5**
5.8	6.5	BCL	**5.3**
1.3	1.6	National Plastics	**1.8**
(4.6)	(0.7)	Miscellaneous	**(3.2)**
54.1	73.4		**58.6**

UK Trading

By comparison with the first six months of 1983/84, there was little change overall in the volume of sales from the Group's businesses in the UK, although fibre exports to markets outside Western Europe were lower.

Increased prices in both home and export markets were generally sufficient to maintain or improve margins, except in some of the UK fibre businesses where a reduction in profits reflected some decline in the strength of demand. Additional costs have also been incurred as a result of national industrial disputes.

Overseas Trading

The rise in sales by the Group's businesses overseas was attributable to improvements in both volume and price, as well as to an increase of £21m due to exchange rate movements.

The improvement in overseas profits, after a £1.8m reduction due to exchange rate movements, principally arose from better trading conditions in North America.

Dividend

The Board has declared an interim dividend in respect of the 1984/85 year of 1.40p net per Ordinary Share (1983 1.20p) – gross equivalent 2.00p (1983 1.714p) – to be paid on 9th January 1985 to shareholders on the register on 27th November 1984. The cost of the interim dividend after deducting ACT is £5.3m.

COURTAULDS PLC
18 Hanover Square, London, W1A 2BB

D. C. Pimlott, Secretary
27 November 1984

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares at new high

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Nov 26. Dealings End, Dec 7. § Contango Day, Dec 10. Settlement Day, Dec 17.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

BRITISH FUNDS

1984 High	Low	Stock		Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld %	Gross Red. yld %
SHORTS (Under Five Years)							
105.41	101.89	Treas	15% 1985	101.14	..	14.831	9.414
102	98	Exch C	12% 1985	100		11.924	9.827
97	93	Treas	3% 1985	97	..	3.093	9.501
102	99	Treas	11¾% 1985	100	..	11.888	9.756

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

BREWERIES

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1984 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
349	250	Gerrard Nat	324	●	..	17.1	5.3	8.8
68	45	Guinness Peat	55		+3	0.9	1.6	20.2
183	121	Hambros	163		+5	8.3	5.1	17.1
18	9	Do (50p)	£12		..	82.9	6.4	13.6
350	235	Hill Samuel	318	●	+16	15.4	4.8	9.0
77½	48½	HK Shanghai	76½		-½	..b	..	..
318	228	Joseph (Leopold)	233		..	16.1	6.9	12.2
178	124	King & Shaxson	170	●	..	11.8	6.9	14.4
460	320	Kleinwort Benson	398		+3	17.9	4.5	9.9
542	422	Lloyds	529		+15	34.9	6.5	4.4
63	49	Lon Scot Fin	55		..	3.8	6.9	10.7
42	24	Maxson	25		..	1.4	5.7	8.8
418	408	Mercury Secs	418		+5	16.4	3.9	8.8
429	277	Midland	357		+3	36.4	10.2	5.9
280	188	Nat Aust Bk	245	●	-6	..	..	..
580	429	Nat West	572		+10	38.2	6.7	4.5
72	57	Ottoman	270½		+½	450	6.4	18.8
194	144	Provident	194		+6	13.6	7.0	8.3
100	72½	Rea Bros	81		..	1.8	2.2	28.2
20½	14	Royl Bnk Of Can	217½		..	..	..	..
248	194	Royl Bnk Of Scot	238		+2	11.0	4.8	8.2
808	625	Schroders	708		..	23.6	3.3	11.9
370	280	Seccombe M	340	●	..	28.6	8.4	11.2
71	45	Smith St Aubyn	65	●	..	6.4	10.2	6.7
579	442	Stand Chart	454		+5	40.0	8.8	8.3
765	612	Union	738		..	48.8	6.6	12.0
57	42	Wagon	57		+1	3.9	6.9	15.4
38½	23½	Wells Fargo	237½		-½	..	..	..
255	195	Wintrust	220		..	6.1	2.8	14.8

BUILDING AND ROADS

1984 High	Low	Company	Price		Ch'ge	Gross Div pence	Yld %	P/E
202	158	Aberdeen Constr	182		+2	9.4	5.2	9.2
252	185	Amec	247	●	..	15.0	6.1	10.1
78	39	Amcliffe	48		..	..●	..	7.1
94	79½	Atwoods	83	f	..	5.0b	6.0	24.5
338	233	BPB Industries	285		..	10.0	3.4	10.5
202	122	Baggeridge Brick	202		..	8.0	4.0	11.2
186	76	Barratt Dvlps	88		..	10.9	12.4	5.8
45	27	Bailey(Ben) Constr	31	●	..	2.8	8.3	6.2
..	..	Beechwood	..	f	..	..	..	..

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE AND LAND

FOODS

HOTELS AND CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A–D

INDUSTRIALS E–K

INDUSTRIALS L–R

INDUSTRIALS S–Z

INSURANCE

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

OIL

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

هكذا من الأمل

WALL STREET

[illegible]

a Asked c Ex distribution h Bid k Market closed n New issue p Stock split t Traded y Unquoted

MONEY MARKETS

Clearing Banks Base Rate 9½-9¾

Discount Mkt Loans% · Overnight: High 9¾ Low 4

Week Fixed: 9½

Treasury Bills (Dis%)

Buying	Selling
2 months 9$^{9}/_{32}$	2 months 9$^{7}/_{32}$
3 months 9$^{1}/_{16}$	3 months 9

Prime Bank Bills (Dis%) Trades (Dis%)

1 month 9$^{15}/_{32}$-9¾	1 month 10$^{1}/_{32}$
2 months 9$^{9}/_{32}$-9$^{7}/_{32}$	2 months 9$^{29}/_{32}$
3 months 9$^{5}/_{32}$-9⅛	3 months 9$^{25}/_{32}$
6 months 9¼-9$^{3}/_{32}$	6 months 9⅞

Local Authority Bonds

1 month 10¼-9⅞	7 months 10¼-10
2 months 10¼-10	8 months 10¼-10
3 months 10¼-10	9 months 10¼-10
4 months 10⅛-9⅞	10 months 10¼-10
5 months 10⅛-9⅞	11 months 10¼-10
6 months 10⅛-9⅞	12 months 10¼-10

Secondary Mkt. £CD Rates (%)

1 month 9$^{25}/_{32}$-9$^{11}/_{16}$	6 months 9⅝-9⅝
3 months 9¾-9⅝	12 months 9$^{15}/_{16}$-9¾

Local Authority Market (%)

1 day 9½	3 months 9¾
7 days 9½	6 months 9¾
1 month 9¾	1 year 9$^{15}/_{16}$

Interbank Market (%)

Overnight: open 9¼-9 Close 8

1 week 9¾-9½	6 months 10-9⅞
1 month 9⅞-9¾	9 months 10$^{1}/_{16}$-10
3 months 9$^{15}/_{16}$-9$^{13}/_{16}$	12 months 10$^{1}/_{16}$-10

First Class Finance Houses (Mkt. Rate%)

3 months 9$^{15}/_{16}$ 6 months 10

Finance House Base Rate 11

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9½%
Adam & Company	9½%
Barclays	9¾%
BCCI	9½%
Citibank Savings †	11½%
Consolidated Crds	10½%
Continental Trust	9½%
C. Hoare & Co *	9½%
Lloyds Bank	9½%
Midland Bank	9½%
Nat Westminster	9½%
TSB	9½%
Williams & Glyn's	9½%
Citibank NA	9½%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

* 7 day deposits on sums of under £10,000, 6¼%. £10,000 up to £50,000, 7¼%. £50,000 and over, 8%.

FOOTBALL: MANCHESTER UNITED STRUGGLE WITH INJURIES AND TOTTENHAM JUGGLE WITH PLAYERS

Atkinson draws a dark veil over defensive problems

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The Uefa Cup meeting between Manchester United and Dundee United at Old Trafford might have been billed as part one of a new Anglo-Scottish war. But before the third round tie starts tonight, a crucial battle will already have ended in the wings of the main stage. England's representatives have been forced to fight for their fitness.

Ron Atkinson has lost half of his regular back four, Duxbury and Hogg, and may be without the other half as well. Manchester United's manager will be in the physio-therapist's room to see for himself how Moran's back and Albiston's hamstring respond to treatment and only then will he unveil his lineup.

His leading replacement is McGrath, the youngster he once forecast would become the best central defender in the country. Under normal circumstances, the recall of McGrath might have strengthened Manchester's ambition but he had a cartilage removed during the summer and has since played only once, for the reserves last Saturday.

Atkinson, who has seen all five of his recognised centre halves suffer from injuries this season, revealed that McGrath would have been "my first choice from the start if he had been fit". But, even though his alternative is the inexperienced Garton, he may decide against risking him.

With their defence enveloped in such uncertainty, United's unbeaten home record, stretching back over 40 European ties, is under grave threat. It would have been in even greater danger if Dundee United's attack had been armed with Milne, their sharpest forward in Europe with 11 goals, but he has been ruled out as well.

The marksman that Atkinson, Robson and Strachan all fear is Sturrock. Their opinion may be unanimous but recent European evidence would suggest otherwise. Sturrock failed to score in any of Dundee United's eight ties on their way to last season's European Cup semi-final, and has claimed only one in their four UEFA Cup matches so far. However, Sturrock did score five of his side's seven goals against Morton 11 days ago.

There can be no doubting Dundee United's firepower, particularly at their own Tannadice Park, but it is not confined to one or two individuals. indeed, no fewer than eight have contributed to their victories over AIK Stockholm and Linz.

Jim McLean is tempted to forego the natural defensive instincts during the away leg but he, too, delayed announcing his side.

Yet Dundee United froze in the fiery heat of Rome's Olympic stadium last April and conceded a two-goal lead when they were within sight of the final. Tonight they will again step into an arena that will be filled with more than three times there usual crowd and, no doubt, more than three times the usual noise.



Uncertainty surrounds the fitness of McGrath (left) and the form of Sturrock (right)

Rideout off the list at his own request

Paul Rideout, Aston Villa's England under-21 forward, has asked to come off the transfer list. Rideout, aged 20, who was signed from Swindon Town for £250,000 before the start of last season, demanded a move after a row with manager Graham Turner three weeks ago.

Yesterday, Rideout, who has been left out since the disagreement, admitted he had been a "bit hasty". His decision was welcomed by Turner, who said: "He has a lot of potential and I never wanted him to leave".

● Mark Hateley resumed training yesterday less than to weeks after undergoing knee surgery for an injury sustained while playing AC Milan against Torino on November 11. He says he wants to play in next Sunday's match against Verona, although he has not yet been given clearance to do so by doctors.

● Alan Biley, Portsmouth's £120,000 signing from Everton, has asked for a transfer. Biley, 28, has been unable to command a regular place at Fratton Park since Alan Ball became manager and has put in a written request to leave.

He has scored 44 goals in 90 League appearances but has been restricted to substitute for much of the last two months. Biley, who shared a 42 goal partnership with England forward Mark Hateley last season, was previously at Luton, Cambridge, Derby, Everton, and Stoke on loan.

● Middlesbrough have made Stephen Bell available for transfer at his own request. But the manager, Willie Maddren, will insist on a replacement before the 19-year-old winger is allowed to leave. Maddren said: "We have a thin squad already without cutting it any further".

● Leicester City have extended Peter Eastoe's loan from West Bromwich Albion for a second month. Eastoe came to Filbert Street last month for his second loan period with the club within 12 months, and has been a first-team regular throughout his stay.

Leicester's manager, Gordon Milne, confirmed yesterday that Albion had given Leicester permission to keep the former Swindown Town and Everton forward for another month.

● Hull City made a £40,287 profit on the year ending July 31 – two and a half years after the official receiver was called in because of debts of £750,000.

Their chairman, Don Robinson, said: "It is our second successive profit and we are pulling the club round by running it in a business-like way."

Robinson revealed, however, that the profit was due to outside activities. There was a loss of £24,246 on the playing side.

It is now more likely than ever that Hull will go ahead with plans to turn Boothferry Park into football's first pop stadium. They have planning permission to build a covered stage, similar to the Hollywood Bowl, at the north end of the ground, and it is hoped to be in u :e by the summer of 1986.


Rideout: staying at Villa

Monday's results

FA Cup
First round replay

Swindon 1, Dagenham 2 (aet: score after 90 min 1-1; Dagenham home to Peterborough).
GOLA LEAGUE: Worcester 1, Kidderminster 2.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Bognor Regis 1, Dulwich Hamlet 1.
SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Bill Dellow Cup: Second round: Postponed: Alvechurch v VS Rugby.
CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second Division: Leicester 1, Port Vale 0; Wolverhampton 1, Oldham 2.
FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Tottenham 0, Chelsea 3; QPR 6, Millwall 2.
FA TROPHY: Second qualifying round replay: Corby Town 0, Stafford Rangers 1.
MORRITT HOMES LEAGUE: Wealdstone 1, Orient 0
SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP: Second round: Oxford United 1, Wembledon 3.
FA COUNTY YOUTH CUP: Second round: Surrey 2, Hampshire 1
REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Essex County FA 0, Army FA 0.
AFRICAN NATIONS CUP: First qualifying round: Mauritania 3, Liberia 0 (Mauritania won 4-3 on aggregate); Gabon 1, Zaire 1 (Zaire won 3-1 on aggregate).

Shreeves values his missing link

By Clive White

Peter Shreeves, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, regularly finds himself in the luxurious position of leaving famous names – including that of Hoddle – on the substitutes; bench and sometimes even in the stands, simply because there is no room for them on the field. But one man Shreeves would normally never leave out is perhaps the least celebrated name of all, Tony Galvin.

"He would always be in my 11. I always prefer to play with two wingers," Shreeves said yesterday.

But tonight Tottenham will almost certainly be without the significant left-wing contribution of Galvin, as they defend the UEFA Cup in a third round, First leg tie with Bohemians, of Prague, at White Hart Lane.

The hamstring injury which has kept Galvin out of the last three games is likely to do so again. Without him, Tottenham have drawn the last two. They miss the width he brings and his raw, often unconsidered talent for thundering past the full back and crossing precisely from the most difficult angles out near the corner flag. It was his thrillingly-timed run and cross which put Tottenham ahead on aggregate in the previous tie with FC Bruges, which Tottenham won 4-2 on aggregate. He is a strange one; when given time and space he invariably makes a hash of it.

Without him, Shreeves has been tempted to play both Hazard and Hoddle, which can be rather too much of a good thing. Hazard's towering skill, anyway, usually shrinks to the height of a blade of grass whenever Hoddle is plying his trade. Here again injuries could resolve the problem, though Hoddle will probably be fit, as will Falco and Allen; they all overcame their aches and pains in training yesterday. It would, perhaps, be wiser to bring back Hughton and move Mabbutt into midfield, at the expense of Hoddle or Hazard. There are several possible permutations, most of which Tottenham have successfully tried this season.

Tampering with a team's mechanism can only succeed when working with very good players, such as Tottenham possess. "I think I can make as many as four changes and still be very well represented," Shreeves said.

Tottenham's record of 43 successive homes matches in Europe without defeat is unlikely to be threatened tonight, but overall the tie poses its problems. Whatever lead Tottenham achieve will have to stand up on probably a frozen pitch in Prague in a fortnight's time.

It was against Bohemians that Ispwich Town, winners of this competition in 1980-81, had their most chilling moments when watching their 3-0 lead chipped away to a single goal in Prague.

Bohemians are rugged, regular combatants in Europe and are of an averge age of 27 to 28. They reached the semi-final round of this competition two years ago before losing to Anderlecht, unfortunately beaten by Tottenham in last season's final on penalties, which was how Bohemians disposed of Ajax in the previous round this season.

Seven of the side represent the national team, and Sloop is a player who caught Shreeves's eye when he saw Bohemians twice recently. He is a skilful sort in his early thirties and dangerous at free-kicks just like his predecessor, Panenka, now with Rapid Vienna. "I shall not want to go to Prague with too much to do," Shreeves said.


Hazard: not an ideal partner for Hoddle

Return of an idol with feet of gold

Hamburg (Reuter) – Karl-Heinz Rummenigge returns to West Germany for the first time since his transfer to Italy tonight for the UEFA Cup third round tie between Hamburg and Inter Milan.

All 61,000 tickets were sold out last week as fans clamoured for another glimpse of the celebrated West German, who cost Inter a European record fee of 11.4 million marks (around £3m) from Bayern Munich.

Inter's heavy summer spending – they also signed Liam Brady as their second foreign player – was aimed to secure a return to the successful days of the 1960s when they twice won the European Cup.

The Milan club drew 1-1 at Fiorentina on Sunday, but their league title challenge is waning and the UEFA Cup may be their best chance of success.

Brady missed the Fiorentina game through injury but should be fit to play, though Inter will be without their goalkeeper Walter Zenga, who has a cartilage problem and will be replaced by Angelo Recchi.

Hamburg, lost 4-2 in Dusseldorf on Saturday, have slipped to fifth in the table and will also be concentrating on the UEFA Cup.

Their influential midfield player, Felix Magath, scorer of the winning goal in the 1983 European Cup final against Juventus, is expected to play after missing the Dusseldorf game with a thigh injury.

His battle with Brady for midfield control could be the key to the tie. Magath needs to revitalize a Hamburg attack in which Mark McGhee is not scoring as freely as the club hoped when they signed him from Aberdeen last summer.

Anderlecht aiming to lift Belgians' gloom

From Peter Bills, Brussels

A year of discontent at home and abroad cannot end quickly enough for Belgian football. The collective traumas of the Standard Liège bribes scandal and ignominious end to the European Championship campaign and Anderlecht's UEFA Cup final defeat by Tottenham last May combine to make 1984 a variation on the theme of Orwellian catastrophe.

But one of Belgian football's favourite sons, Paul van Himst has led the renaissance in some style. Tonight in their compact Parc Astrid stadium, Real Madrid, van Himst's Anderlect should further redress the balance of misfortune for a Belgium football public which badly needs some winter cheer.

Anderlecht's excellence (they are clear leaders in the championship, ahead of Waregem and F.C. Bruges, and threaten to improve upon last season's runners up slot in the UEFA Cup has been the most notable feature of the season so far in Belgium.

Yet van Himst, affable but astute sees others as greater pretenders to Tottenham's UEFA Cup. "For me Inter Milan are a great danger and I expect them to beat Hamburg" he said. "Spartak Moscow, too, are a fine side. Manchester United are well known but, if Brady's influence is all it can be Inter will be the side to concern every survivor of this round".

Real, their name once synonymous with European football power, have not matched Barcelona's runaway form in the Spanish League. They carry an onerous burden tonight, as the last remaining Spanish side in European club competitions this winter. Negotiating Anderlecht's severe challenge will occupy their minds wonderfully, especially as Lozano, their £1m recruit from the Belgian Club, has not played for two matches although he is in the squad here.

Anderlecht are without Vandereycken but, with Czerniatinski in hot form, with 13 goals, and quality allied to supreme organization their trademark, opponents Real will do well to keep the tie alive for the second leg in the Bernabeu Stadium.

The Anderlecht coach's greatest wish is for a repeat of last year's final with Tottenham. But much lies ahead, including the winter snows, before that particular dream can become reality.

Forest grow in stature after run of success

Schools Football by George Chesterton

Forest go with confidence into today's local derby with **Chigwell** having, in the last fortnight, narrowly lost to Eaton, drawn with a strong Highgate and defeated St Edmunds, Canterbury, Wellingborough and Aldenham.

Shrewsbury hopes must also be high for their match with **Queen Elizabeth GS, Blackburn**. They had two good results this week, beating the formerly undefeated Manchester GS 3-2 and, on Saturday under wet, windy conditions, Shepherd, their captain, scored near the end to gain a 1-0 victory from an experienced Charterhouse side.

Lancing continued their run of success with a 5-1 victory against **Bradfield**. Bradfield dominated in the first half but failed to capitalize turning round 2-0 down. In the second half Lancing exerted pressure and Robinson scored another treble his fifth in the last six games.

Wloverhampton GS entertained **Repton** yesterday in exceptionally windy conditions which made constructive football difficult. Wolverhampton had several chances but the ball was so difficult to control they were unable to get on target and the match was drawn with no score. This was a disappointing run-up for Wolverhampton, quarter-finalists in today's Wolverhampton schools' cup, a competition which they have won for the last five years.

Casuals are expelled from league

Corinthian-Casuals have been expelled from the Isthmian League, of which they were founder-members in 1905 (Paul Newman writes). Casuals, who in August were granted a year's leave of absence from the league to give them time to bring their ground up to new standards, will return only if they earn promotion from the London Spartan League, which they joined at the start of the season.

The Isthmian League have expelled Casuals because they had told the club they would be allowed to return next season only if they did not join another league in the meantime. Casuals had not officially resigned from the league.

Düsseldorf club's survival plan

Düsseldorf (Reuter) – Fortuna Dsseldorf yesterday put forward a plan for survival, including cuts in players' salaries.

Fortuna, West German Cup winners in 1979 and 1980 and European Cup Winners' Cup finalists in 1979, said they would be unable to meet their bills from next March unless action was taken.

Fortuna's temporary manager, Werner Fassbender, said he had received agreement from Bayer Leverkusen and Borussia Mönchengladback to delay outstanding transfer payments on Fortuna's close-season signings Uwe Greiner and Jrgen Fleer. The club would ask Dssldorf city authorities to reduce stadium rental charges by eight per cent and would approach players about possible wage cuts.

IN BRIEF

Novice hits hole in one twice in same round

Dave Drew, a novice golfer, was not content with a hole-in-one on a Gloucester golf course, yesterday. He went on to hit another in the same round.

Drew from Gloucester, was playing at his club in Painswick, near Stroud, when he hit his first hole-in-one with a 120-yard drive on the seventh hole. Then, at the tenth hole, he did the same from 150 yards.

OLYMPIC GAMES: Paul Ziffren, chairman of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, said yesterday that only the committee's board of directors can decide whether to share the surplus from the 1984 Games with foreign teams. He also warned that "no-one has the right" to commit the Olympic money to others until the board acts.

In a statement responding to the former LAOOC president, Peter Ueberroth, who asked the committee to reimburse teams for their housing costs in Los Angeles, Ziffren said that only the board can decide whether to share the committee suplus with the foreign teams.

Ueberroth has called last week for the committee to give about $7m (£5.8m) of its estimated $162m surplus to foreign teams that competed in the games, to show "that we're not greedy."

TABLE TENNIS: Graham Sandley, second to Desmond Douglas in the English rankings, yesterday received a £5,000 sponsorship boost. Sandley is being backed by JFA Computer Stationery, a New Malden printing firm, and bonuses could take his earnings to £10,000 in the next year.

Sandley, aged 21, from Potters Bar, is a left-hander who has been runner-up in the English Closed championships for the past three years. He is also sponsored by the Butterfly sports equipment firm.

CANOEING: Tamas Wichmann, of Hungary, who won nine world championship titles in a career spanning 18 years, has announced his retirement from the sport. Wichmann captured two silver medals a nd a bronze in four Olympic games but failed to win a title. He was one of the most consistent performers during the 1970s, winning two golds at the world championships in Belgrade in 1971, and repeated the triumph in Duisburg in 1979.

SWIMMING: The Scottish Amateur Swimming Association have named a 32-strong squad for the 1985 season, aimed at bridging the gap between youth and senior grades. The squad is backed by Esso, and includes girls from 15-17 and boys from 16-18.

FIGURE SKATING: The World championships will be held in Tokyo from March 4 to 9 next year, the Japanese Organizing Committee said yesterday. They said 145 skaters from 23 nations were expected to take part in the six-day meeting.

RUGBY UNION: Lombard Shipping have agreed to sponsor the Seven Counties Merit Table to the tune of £25,000 over the next five seasons. A total of £3,000 will be competed for in the current season, increasing by £1,000 per year.

ATHLETICS

Finns may ban dope case men

Helsinki (Reuter). – Officials involved in the Marti Vainio doping scandal should be banned from working with Finland's athletes, the National Olympic Committee said yesterday. Vainio, second in the Olympic 10,000 metres in Los Angeles, was stripped of his silver medal after a positive dope test.

Antti Lanamaki, the chief national coach, resigned on Friday after admitting responsibility for the cover-up of an earlier positive dope test by Vainio at the Rotterdam marathon in April. In both cases the Finnish runner was found to have used one of the banned anabolic steroid group of drugs.

The national distance running coach, Timo Vuorimaa, was several reprimanded by the Finnish Athletic Association for his involvement in the Rotterdam cover-up. The Natinal Olympic Committee said both men should be barred from any further work with the Athletic Association

The committee called for a full report on the Rotterdam incident by December 18. It also asked for details of all dope tests on Finnish athletes during the past season, particularly the national championships in July in which competitors sould to qualify for the Olympic Games.

● Peter Ngobedi, a 16-year-old black South African, became the first person in the country to run 100 metres in less than 10 seconds when he was hand-timed at 9.9 secs at a meeting near Johannesburg on Sunday.

Tennis: Sweden no longer turns a blind eye to the draft dodgers

A racket to defeat the call-up

Stockholm (AP) – A Swedish member of parliament has asked the minister of defence if the government plans to tighten loopholes in the law in order to prevent Swedish tennis professionals from draft-dodging, it was reported here. "They should do their duty like all other swedish men," Rune Angström, a liberal deputy, said.

None of the current generation of leading players, including Bjorn Borg and the four Swedes ranked in the world top ten, Wilander, Anders Jarryd, Henrik Sundström and Joakim Nyström, have served king and country. All of them decided early in their careers to move abroad because of the high taxes in Sweden and thus became ineligible for the draft. Wilander, who will lead the Swedes in the Davis Cup final against the United States in Gothenburg from December 16 to 18, moved to Monte Carlo two years ago.

Only citizens aged 17-23 residing in Sweden are eligible for the draft, Borg, the five-time Wimbledon winner, reported for the draft in the early 1970s but never did any military service after moving to Monte Carlo. Other players residing in Sweden avoid the draft by playing abroad when they get their draft orders.

"It's no secret that we all try to get away from it," Magnus Tideman was quoted as saying in Aftonbladet, a Swedish newspaper. Tideman, ranked 130th on the Association of Tennis Professionals' computer, said: "You lose computer points and money and get out of shape by doing military service. If the military takes a tougher stand the only solution is to move abroad."

Lieutenant-Colonel Per-Gunnar Nordgren of the Swedish national service induction board explained: "We don't chase them in foreign countries. We repeat the draft order and if they still not show up we finally notify the local police. But I don't know if the police ever caught a tennis player for draft-dogging. It's not our business."

Most tennis players have managed to beat the Swedish bureaucracy. A former winner of the United States Open junior title was even told by the military authorities to move abroad to escape national service, according to the Swedish military newspaper that broke the story. Other leading Swedish sportsmem, including th skiers Ingemar Stenmark and Gunda Svan, have served in the army. "It didn't hurt me at all," said Svan, who won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze in cross-country skiing at the winter Olympics in Sarajevo this year.


Bjorn Borg: Out of the draft in Monte Carlo

TENNIS

Mrs Lloyd building to bridge the gap

Melbourne (Reuter) – Chris Lloyd swept through her first-round match at the Australian open championships today, giving an early glimpse of a new training scheme aimed at building up her strength.

Mrs Lloyd, the No. 2 seed, who won the Australian title in 1982, overwhelmed her fellow American, Kim Shaefer, 6-0, 6-2. Other winners included Pam Shriver, the No. 3 seed, who beat Camille Benjamin 6-4, 6-3 in another all-American match, and Britain's Virginia Wade, who put out Wendy White, of the United States, 7-5, 6-4, but the biggest upset was the elimination of the No. 6 seed, Zina Garrison, of the United States, by her compatriot, Sharon Walsh, 4-6, 6-4, 9-7.

Aware of the ever-increasing gap between herself and the world No. 1, Martina Navratilova, Mrs Lloyd entered the gym of Stan Nicholas, the trainer responsible for Margaret Court's renowned physical condition in the 1960s.

Mrs. Lloyd rightly views Miss Navratilova, seeking a seventh successive grand slam victory in Melbourne, as the only serious threat to her own hopes of extending a sequence which has seen her win at least one of the four major titles every year since 1974. "It's not enough to be a great player anymore . . . you must be a top athlete, too," Mrs Lloyd said, in an obvious reference to Miss Navratilova, who is generally regarded as the fittest player in tennis.

Miss Navratilova, the top seed, begins the defence of her title today, when she meets the South African, Yvonne Vermaak, a Wimbledon semi-finalist in 1983.

The local hope, Pat Cash, who reached the last four at the US Open and Wimbledon championships earlier this year, was also idle yesterday, but received some welcome news when the big-hitting American, Steve Denton, was unexpectedly beaten by the Austrian qualifier, Peter Feigl.

Cash, the No. 5 seed, was drawn in the same section of the draw as Denton, runner-up to his American compatriot, Johan Kriek, here in 1981 and 1982, and a dangerous grass court specialist.

Women's singles

FIRST ROUND: (US unless stated): P Shriver bt C Benjamin, 6-4, 6-3; C Lloyd bt K Shaefer, 6-0, 6-2; H Sukova (Cz) bt E Burgin, 6-1, 6-3; W Wade (GB) bt W White, 7-5, 6-4; A Leand bt E Pfaff (WG), 6-2, 6-4; B Bunge (WG) bt B Nagelsen, 6-1, 6-2; C Kohde-Kilsch (WG) bt V Nelson, 6-2, 6-3; S Walsh bt Z Garrison, 4-6, 6-4, 9-7; S Hanika (WG) bt E Smylie (Aus), 7-5, 2-6, 6-4; B Potter bt M Washington, 6-2, 7-6.

Men's singles

FIRST ROUND: (US unless stated): L Bourne bt L Shiras, 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6; T Gullikson bt S McCain, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2; B Drewett (Aus) bt P McNamee (Aus), 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4; H Pfister bt S Giammalva, 6-3, 6-3, 7-6; P Feigl (Austria) bt S Denton, 6-3, 7-6, 6-1; S Youl (Aus) bt R Gehring (WG), 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-4, 6-2; A Giltin bt H Sands, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; D Cahill (Aus) bt R Harmon, 6-7, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-2; K Warwick (Aus) bt R Simpson (NZ), 3-6, 7-5, 7-5, 6-3; A Andrews bt K Flach, 7-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; J Sadri bt C Wittenberg, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Brave Miss Reeves in last eight

By Lewine Mair

Sally Reeves, of Kent lost the first seven games of her match with Catherine Bonnet of France in the same time that it took the players on the next court to compete two. At the end of two hours, however she emerged as the winner and now plays Renta Tomanova-Roth, of Czechoslovakia, for a place in the semi-finals of the LTA event at Teesside Airport.

Miss Reeves' score was 0-6, 7-5, 7-5. For the second day running she found it difficult to accept that the surface was so much faster than that she had known last week and the week before. However, in endeavouring to explain why all but one of her matches in the last three events has gone to three sets, she confessed, a little shyly, that she had reached the point where she did not feel wholly comfortable until she had lost the first set and was able to come from behind.

On a day when Jane Wood, Monday's heroine, lost 1-6, 1-6 to Patricia Hy, of Hongkong; the stately Mrs Tomanova-Roth met Elizabeth Jones, of Hampshire, who was in fiery mood. Miss Jones had been a set and 6-5 ahead but ultimately lost 2-6, 7-6, 6-2.

The turning point seemed to come when, early in the second set tie-break, four good ladies, bound for a twice as effective after spending three years at Miami University, where she is bound in January.

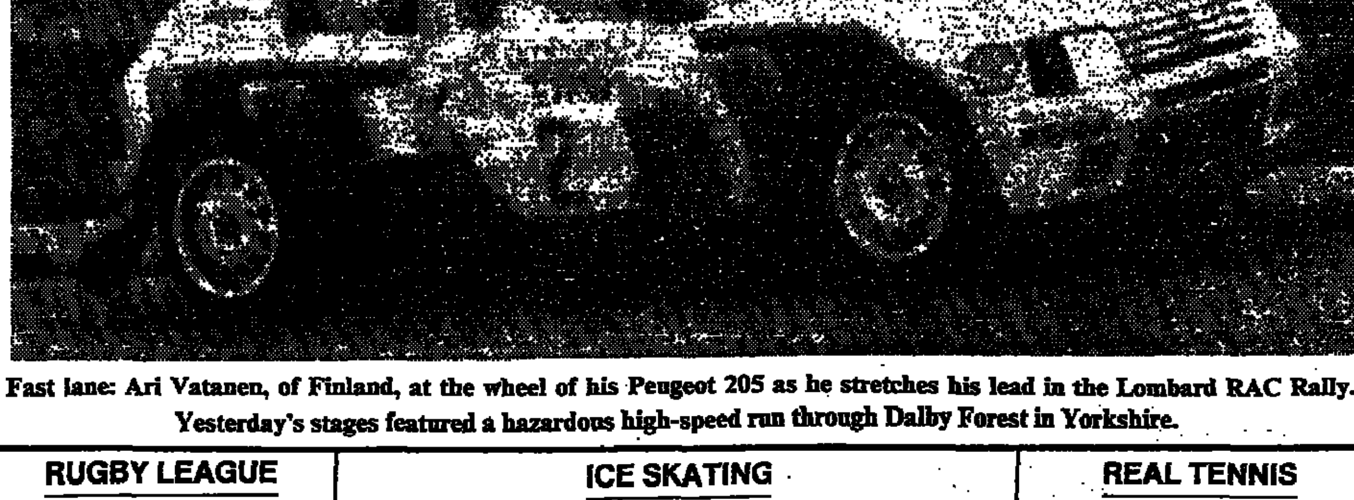
RESULTS: Second round: K Dreyer (US) bt G Dinu (WG) 7-6, 6-4; M Van der Torre (Neth) bt O Tsarbopolou (Gr) 6-1, 1-6, 7-5; P Hy (Hongkong) bt J Wood (Middlesex) 6-1, 6-1; E Reinach (SA) bt K Moos (Neth) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2; R Tomanova-Roth (Czech) bt E Jones (Hampshire) 2-6, 7-6, 6-2; S Reeves (Kent) bt C Bonnett (Fr) 0-6, 7-5, 7-5; E Ekblom (Switz) bt V Paquet (Fr) 3-6, 7-6, 6-2; M Weber (Switz) bt R Welser (WG) 3-6, 6-0, 6-1.

The Abbey nationals

The British under-19 and under-16 championships will be sponsored next year by Abbey National Building Society.

The boys' event will be held at Marlow from April 1 to 4 and the girls' in Gloucester from January 2 to 7.

MOTOR RALLYING



Fast lane: Ari Vatanen, of Finland, at the wheel of his Peugeot 205 as he stretches his lead in the Lombard RAC Rally. Yesterday's stages featured a hazardous high-speed run through Dalby Forest in Yorkshire.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Fulham's future assured

By Keith Macklin

The long-term future of Fulham is to be safeguarded by the Rugby League council. While no precise details or recommendations were issued, the management committee, after a seven-hour meeting in Leeds, recommended "that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the continued membership of Fulham".

The statement also delivered a stern lecture to Fulham players who are contemplating taking advantage of a recent High Court ruling to sever their contracts and declare themselves free agents.

Six New Zealand international players have graduated from the League's national coaching scheme, underlining the fact that British players are tardy in undertaking the scheme. Leading the way is the former New Zealand international captain, Graeme West (Wigan), who has settled in this country and has been appointed regional coach for the Wigan and Leigh area after gaining a grade one coaching certificate.

ICE SKATING

Miss Jackson puts pressure on rivals

By John Hennessy

The first stage of the British Figure Skating championships, sponsored by Tuborg Lager, threw up two surprises at Richmond yesterday. The compulsory figures were won by Susan Jackson, of Nottingham and Richmond, and Spencer Durrant, of Solihull.

Miss Jackson, was the overall champion last year, when only fourth in this element. Durrant, the 18-year-old intermediate champion, is making his first appearance at this level.

Miss Jackson also won the short problem, with Karen Wood second, to steal an early march over miss Wood, who is striving to recover the title which she was in 1980 and 1982. Miss Wood was third in the compulsories, with Maria Geier-Haylock, of Southampton, intervening.

This means that the holder secured a lead of 1.2 points over Miss Wood, possibly a telling margin in the final analysis since it represents more than one placing in the free skating section.

Miss Jackson was aided by the failings of her principal challengers in the last of the three figures. Miss Wood, clearly disturbed by the referee's insistence on her using a piece of ice other than the one she had chosen, went into the loops without the composure required of this discipline.

Her highest mark was 3.0, and one judge, Gillian Lees, went as low as a punishing 2.0. With Miss Geier-Haylock, a figure specialist, similarly failing at this last hurdle, Miss Jackson, perhaps to her own surprise, stood out in splendid isolation. She would have expected to make her more decisive thrust in the free skating elements.

Durrant also prospered in the loops.

LEADING POSITIONS: Women (after compulsory figures): 1, S Jackson (Nottingham) 0.6pts; 2, M Geier-Haylock (Southampton) 1.2; 3, K Wood (Deeside) 1.8; 4, F Hamilton (Streatham) 2.4; 5, P Shellard (Southampton) 3.0; 6, H Leslie (Magnum, Scotland) 3.6. Men: 1, S Durrant (Solihull) 0.6; 2, P Robinson (Blackpool and Billingham) 1.2; 3, M Nicholson (Murrayfield) 1.8; 4, S Pickavance (Blackpool and Billingham) 2.4; 5, J Levers (Sheffield) 3.0.

REAL TENNIS

Steady play reaps its reward

By William Stephens

Peter Seabrook and John Ward, amateur doubles champions in 1982, beat David Johnson, head professional at Queen's Club and Gerard Parsons his former protegé newly appointed to Petworth House, by 3-6, 6-2, 6-5, 1-6, 6-1 in the Open Doubles Championship, sponsored by George Wimpey, at Queen's Club yesterday.

Seabrook and Ward, who have represented Great Britain in Bathhurst Cup international amateur team competition, were too steady for the professionals.

Colin Lumley (unattached) and Kevin Sheldon (Leamington) beat Christopher Bray (Cambridge) and the promising Andrew Page an undergraduate, by 6-3, 6-1, 6-0.

Second round: M D Deam and C Ronaldson (Hampton Court) bt M Golding (Troon) and J P Snow 6-3, 6-0, 6-2; P Seabrook and J Ward bt D Johnson (Queen's) and G Parsons (Petworth) 3-6, 6-2, 6-5, 1-6, 6-1; C Lumley (unattached) and K Sheldon (Leamington) bt C Bray (Cambridge) and A Page 6-3, 6-1, 6-0; L Deucher (Hampton Court) and W O Davies (New York) bt D Cull (Lord's) and F Willis (Manchester) 6-0, 6-0, 6-1.

HARMONY ON THE HOCKEY FIELD AND DISCORD OFF IT

Now is the time for Selfless action

By David Miller

British hockey suffers from the impediment of its own history. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has meetings in London this week to try to resolve, among other things, an acceptable way forwards for Great Britain in parallel with the existing four separate national associations.

For as long as most people can remember there has been an unarticulated but clear resistance by the Hockey Association of England to the proper preparation of a British team for the Olympics. That position may have changed, courtesy of the Soviet boycott of Los Angeles and the resulting exposure of the British team on two and a half hours of television back home.

The popularity gained by the spirited performance in Los Angeles has had two inter-related effects: Roger Self's squad have won the ITV World of Sport team of the year award, their achievement in winning an Olympic bronze medal emphatically preferred by viewers to Liverpool's fourth European Cup victory or Torvill and Dean's Olympic gold; and the Hockey Association has been forced to emerge from its mute non-cooperation in recognition of the potential benefits suddenly available to the sport.

In the Sport's Writers' Association awards, to be presented by Princess Anne next week, the hockey team came fourth behind T and D, Liverpool and the coxed four rowing gold; it remains to be seen where the inspired hockey players will come in BBC's *Sportsnight* poll.

The impact of their achievement, which could be augmented over the next two weeks in matches against Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Netherlands in the Champions' Trophy in Karachi, offers British hockey the opportunity to make a bold bid for a realistic national centre in keeping with the fifth-largest participation sport in the country, and appropriate for England's centenary staging of the World Cup in 1986.

Is the Willesden centre, where Britain won an international tournament this autumn, really suitable in the long term, ask the more progressive of those who administer the game? Now is the moment to make a renewed approach to the Sports Council for establishing a genuine international centre, served by motorway, at Bisham Abbey recreation centre.

It is not unreasonable that the Sports Council, with government support, should give the same kind of underwriting to hockey's World Cup as it did, under Denis Howell's leadership, to the World Cup for football in 1966. There is still time if action is taken quickly.

It this sort of positive attitude *which would make the international* federation and ts members more sympathetic to the idiosyncracies of the British scene and the difficulties in finding a cosmopolitan team from four parochial units once every four years with a track record to justify its inclusion in the Olympics.

Other countries wold prefer Britain to have it one way or the other. The scope for having a four-handed crack at the European and World Cups is less than popularly acclaimed overseas, and certain associations are unsympathetic towards Britain's Olympic entry unless the home counties abandon separate identity on all fronts.

One problem is that the international federation has not yet decided whether to have a proper qualifying competition for 1988 – which it cannot really afford – or to continue with the present invitation system. Since 1972, when Britain finished sixth in Munich, there has been no agreement of substance between the four home associations on how Britain should secure its invitation.

Prior to the 1976 Olympics the team was never able to play a settled side, lost against Belgium without its Scottish players, then lost a play-off also against Belgium. Kenya withdrew at the last minute in the African boycott of Montreal, but the British team, hastily reassembled, never got further than London airport, where it spent 36 hours vainly awaiting travel funds.

In 1980 Britain qualified through performances in the Champions' Trophy, but were among the few British competitors to withdraw because of the Moscow boycott.

Disagreement between the under-financed, occasional Great Britain Men's Hockey and the Hockey Association, on which team should compete in the 1982 Ten Nations tournament and the 1983 European Championship, England or Britain, clouded the 1982-84 period, with the HA claiming priority for England's preparation for the European and World Cups, and the result that Britain failed to achieve the necessary record to be selected for Los Angeles. When the Soviet Union withdrew in May, Self was given a few weekends on a shoestring budget to prepare what turned out to be an exceptional side.

The sure way for Britain to qualify for 1988, if there is no qualifying tournament, is to finish in the first five in Karachi, and to perform well again in next year's Champions' Trophy, given reasonable scope for preparation by the HA. Bernard Cotton, multiple international who has played in three European triumphs with Southgate and has been England under-21 manager for three years, has succeeded Self as British manager. He and his coach, David Whitaker, have a difficult job over the next two weeks to recreate the motivation of Los Angeles.

The springboard given by the inspiration of Self – who guided Wales to their first victory over England in 1970 and their first triple crown four years later and who had outstanding success when invited to coach Southgate in 1976 – should be exploited while interest is at a *peak* and hockey clubs are experiencing a boom in membership.

"The most exciting thing in hockey is the cooperation between all the players and coaches," Self says. "There is a harmony which is still not there off the field." With an upwardly mobile working class, and with all-weather pitches increasing the playing scope of the game, now is the moment for hockey to get its act together.

SNOOKER

Brilliant Meo recovery

By Sydney Friskin

As the second round of the Coral United Kingdom championship drew to a close at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday, there was drama in the match between Steve Davis, the world champion, and Tony Meo. *With a sparkling clearance* break of 86, Meo went into the interval leading by four frames to three, having at one stage fallen 1-3 behind.

With a run on the last three colours Meo levelled the scores in the fourth frame, 48-48, setting up a tie-break on the re-spotted black. Meo won the toss and invited Davis to break, and the early caution displayed by both ended when Meo left the black near a side pocket for Davis to pot.

So Davis went into the first interval comfortably placed, but Meo recovered brilliantly to win the fifth frame, also on the black ball. He could, indeed, have won it earlier. With a clearance break of 57 up to the pink Meo levelled the scores at 3-3, and the seventh frame seemed to be going Davis's way when an unfortunate miscue, at a stage when he led 34-11, allowed Meo to step in.

On the other table, Cliff Thorburn went into the early interval leading the former Welsh champion, Cliff Wilson, 4-0. Wilson is a prolific potter and plays an open game, unlike Thorburn, who has class, style and a great deal of determination, which enabled him to make breaks of 49, 41, 60 and 70 in the first four frames. Wilson checked Thorburn's progress by winning the next two frames

SECOND ROUND: A Meo leads S Davis 4-3. Frame scores (Meo first): 46-94, 111-15, 19-82, 48-55, 82-61, 84-52, 97-34. C Thorburn (Can) leads C Wilson 5-2. Frame scores (Thorburn first): 88-30, 81-23, 98-11, 76-6, 41-71, 1-95, 90-18.

MONDAY'S MATCHES (second round): A Knowles bt Dennis Taylor 9-2. Frame scores (Knowles first): 75-33, 69-36, 63-7, 65-25, 64-28, 36-61, 9-81, 67-43, 83-30, 81-8, 71-1. R Reardon bt David Taylor 9-4. Frame scores (Reardon first): 17-92, 68-15, 88-23, 89-15, 12-71, 121-1, 67-42, 66-28, 71-39, 43-66, 99-30, 48-59, 70-31.

SQUASH RACKETS

Title predictions risky

By Colin McQuillan

It is an illustration of the increasingly sophisticated competition structure in British squash that next month's national championships almost perfectly complement developments in the new premier league.

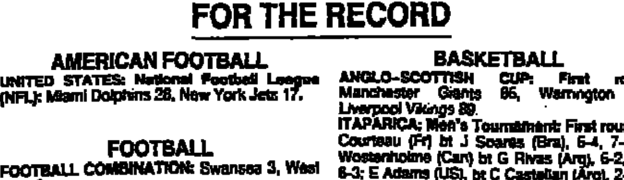
In the draw for the British championships, sponsored by Inter-City, at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, from December 8 to 13, the top seed, Geoff Williams, who has so far beaten every British first string in the league, is scheduled to meet in the semi-finals the defending champion, Philip Kenyon, the regular second string on the Tyrella league side. The Nottingham first string, Gawain Briars, should meet David Pearson, who plays behind Williams in the Manchester Northern line-up.

Scalp hunting by juniors has been a feature of the premier league so far, however, and these championship predictions could suffer in the same way. The highly competitive Martin Bodimead lurks in Kenyon's quarter. Briars might have to deal successively with Adrian Davies, Danny Lee and Christy Willstrop. Pearson might be grateful that the under-19 champion, David Lloyd, and the fast-improving Cerryg Jones meet before reaching him. Williams draws the combative Robert Owen, followed by the under-23 champion, Jamie Hickox.

● Jahangir Khan seeks his fourth successive title in the world open championship, starting in Karachi today.

Jahangir, still only 20, has not lost a match for three years and eight months. When he won the title a year ago, he became the first man to do so without dropping a game. This time he has the further advantage of playing in his home city, with his father, Roshan, the world No 1 in the 1950s, likely for the first time to watch his son win one of the sport's two top titles.

"When he watched me win the Pakistan open for the first time I was nervous", Jahangir admits.



FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

UNITED STATES: National Football League (NFL): Miami Dolphins 28, New York Jets 17.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Swansea 3, West Ham 0.

CYCLING

ZURICH: Six-day race: Leading Standings: 1, G Wiggins (Aust) and A Doyle (GB) 28 pts; 2, R and Herrmann (Leichtenstein) 17 at one lap; 3, J Kristen and H Rinklin (WG) 30; 4, U Freuler and Gisiger (Switz) 9; 5, R Pijnen and Ralf Elshof (Neth) 4; 6, G Frank and M Marcussen (Den) 3.

REAL TENNIS

CANFORD: Canford School v MCC (MCC names first): C Dean lost to I Snell 4-6, 6-3, 5-6; N Robinson bt N Patterson 6-5, 4-6, 6-2; A Garland lost to A Chatikavany 4-6, 5-6; C Winn bt B Idundun 6-4, 6-2; A Alston bt T Worsley 6-3, 6-2, MCC won 5-2.

LORD'S: MCC v Paris: Singles: MCC 1, Paris 5. Doubles: MCC 2, Paris 1. Paris won 6-3.

LORD'S: MCC bt Cambridge Seniors 4-1 (MCC names first): L Wheatley lost to P Ruby 3-6, 2-6; S Somerville bt A Pearson 6-2, 6-1; B Theobalds bt C Wykes 6-3, 4-6, 6-0; R Sligh bt I Warner 6-3, 6-1; R Moore bt J Carr 6-2, 6-1.

MOTOR RALLYING

CHESTER: RAC rally: Leading positions after 31 stages: 1, A Vatanen (Fin, Peugeot) 4hr 40min 55sec; 2, H Mikkola (Fin, Audi) 4:44.58; 3, M Mouton (Fr, Audi) 4:52.58; 4, J Buffum (US, Audi) 4:53.56; 5, P Eklund (Swe, Toyota) 4:55.17; 6, J McRae (GB, Opel) 4:55.24.

BASKETBALL

ANGLO-SCOTTISH CUP: First round: Manchester Giants 86, Warrington and Liverpool Vikings 89.

ITAPARICA: Men's Tournament: First round: L Courteau (Fr) bt J Soares (Bra), 6-4, 7-5; M Westenholme (Can) bt G Rivas (Arg), 6-2, 5-7, 6-3; E Adams (US), bt C Castellan (Arg), 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; P Kebolledo (Chile) bt A Fillol (Chile), 6-4, 6-2; M Hocevar (Bra) bt A Jordan (Col), 6-1, 6-1; E Martins (Bra) bt C Lasage (Fra), 6-3, 6-4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division

	P	W	L	Pts
Leicester	7	7	0	14
Solent	8	7	1	14
Kingston	7	6	1	12
Bracknell	6	5	1	10
Warrington	7	5	2	10
Hemel Watford	8	5	3	10
Doncaster	8	4	4	8
Crystal Palace	7	3	4	6
Manchester	8	3	5	6
Worthing	8	3	5	6
Sunderland	7	2	5	4
Birmingham	8	2	6	4
Telford	7	0	7	0
Bolton	8	0	8	0

Secretin's defence

Jaques Secretin, the Frenchman, defends his singles title in the £20,000 Dong-Ah Open Grand Prix table tennis championships in Cardiff on January 17-19. China, Japan and South Korea complete a powerful far east line-up against the US, Canada, Israel, England and 14 other European countries.

IN BRIEF

Costly blow for women's Open

The British Women's Open golf championship lost its million pound sponsor last night when Hitachi announced that they were withdrawing their support. The Japanese hi-fi company, which had planned to invest £1.5m over three years, pulled out following the BBC's decision not to televise the 1985 championship.

The BBC were understood to be unhappy about slow play and a lack of several top American players, including Nancy Lopez and Joanne Carner, when the event was staged at Woburn this year.

FOOTBALL: Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chairman, has refused permission for BBC Radio 2 to cover tonight's UEFA Cup third round tie against Dundee United at Old Trafford because he believes their presence will affect the attendance.

Rob Hastie, producer of Radio 2's midweek sports special programme, said: "Because we are not being allowed to do commentary we are depriving many people who cannot go to the game throughout the United Kingdom of hearing the match. We feel that any fan in a postition to do so will go, and by doing commentary we would in no way affect the size of the gate. We never forget the blind, the infirm and the elderly for whom radio provides their only means of sharing in the country's national sport. Needless to say, we are very disappointed by the decision".

MOTOR RALLYING: Prince Paul *Metternich of West Germany*, president of the International Automobile Federation, had a two hour meeting yesterday with Jean-Marie Balestre, the president of the French motor sport federation, to try and save next year's Monte Carlo Rally. The rally was cancelled because the Monaco Automobile Club refused to pay its French counterpart a fee of nearly £90,000 for using French roads.

SKIING: Blanca Fernandez-Ochoa, of Spain won the World Series women's Alpine giant slalom in Puy-Saint-Vincent yesterday.

SWIMMING: A training fund has been set up to help 16-year-old Sarah Hardcastle, of Southend, who won individual silver and bronze medals at the Olympmic Games. The sheme is sponsored by Keymed, a local fibre optics firm.

BOXING: Larry Holmes, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion, is, not for the first time, threatening to retire after his next bout. Holmes, aged 35, plans to defend against fellow American, David Bey, on a date yet to be fixed. He is not likely to resume training until the end of December as he has an injured hand.

● An African witchdoctor, who accurately forecast the outcome of Gerrie Coetzee's previous bouts, predicts he will beat the American, Greg Page in the sixth round, when he defends his World Boxing Association heavyweight championship. "I'm going with the witchdoctor – round six," said a confident Coetzee at the pre-bout medical.

CRICKET

England change direction for Test that spin may decide

From Richard Streeton, Bombay

All preconceived cricket thinking about the first Test match between India and England, which starts today, has now to be tempered by the psychological blow the touring team have suffered with the British Deputy High Commissioner's murder at breakfast-time yesterday. It would take more hardened individuals than this young England side to remain unaffected when their host the previous evening, at what was a convivial family occasion rather than a diplomatic cocktail party, is shot dead a few hours later.

Some of the England players understandably wonder whether they should be starting a Test *match at this juncture, but the* tour will go on. A spokesman for the British High Commission said there was no reason to think the players were at risk. Since Mrs Gandhi's assassination the day they arrived, it has been an ill-omened tour in several ways. Still to be confirmed finally is the third Test match in Calcutta, over the new year period, because of the civil unrest which invariably accompanies general elections in India.

Last night armed policemen patrolled the corridor where the cricketers have their rooms; plain-clothes men mingled with other guests and staff in the busy hotel; and the atmoshere overall was hardly conducive to a sporting performer's peace of mind. Certainly the England team's *heart will not be in* today's game.

Nor is the Wankhede Stadium, with it volatile enthusiasts, who throw fire-crackers as other crowds in the world bang beer cans together, the ideal venue for players whose nerves must be on edge. While the team practised yesterday, spectators spuatted on top of the stands and thronged the roofs of adjoining apartment blocks. Frederick Forsyth would consider the Wankhede a marvellous backcloth for a sniper's activities.

The Indian Test team are also concerned about their safety, and they refused to leave the ground until they had an armed escort as well. It is not, I hope, alarmist but a matter of factual commonsense to suggest that this Test match should have been postponed for 48 hours in the hope that more would then be known about those responsible and their motives for yesterday's murder.

Meanwhile, if England are able to fulfil their potential in this match, we should be in for a fascinating game. Everyone seems to agree that this Bombay pitch, which has already lost most of its sparse grass in the past 24 hours, should produce a clear-cut result. Three years ago agaonst England, the Indian seam bowlers brought their side an emphatic victory with a day to spare and then sat on their lead throughout the rest of the series.

This time it is the spin bowlers who are expected to hold the balance of power. India are still considered certain to *include three spinners when* their side is announced just before the toss; England have named 12 players and must be given all credit fr including Pocock, their main attacking off spinner. Marks, whose superior batting threatened to win him the off spinner's role, is excluded.

Instead, England have changed direction in their seach for batting insurance by picking Cowdrey, and in normal circumstances his selection would have earned banner headlines. Cowdrey left London with a strained groin and has played only once on this tour, at Jaipur in the first fixture in India, scoring eight runs and bowling four overs.

It must now be surmised that Cowdrey could play as the third seamer, with Cowans omitted, unless Allott is left out because he feels any reaction from his back injury. For the moment Allott has reported fit. There is no doubt that Cowdrey could make more runs than Marks, if that has to be the criterion, and that England might be well served on this pitch by a new-ball attack of Allott and Ellison, with Cowdrey and Gatting as back-up, and Edmonds and Pocock as the spinners.

It would be hard luck on Cowans, but the position might change overnight. If the hosts, however, pick three front-rank spinners, including something of a gamble in Sivaramakrishnan, aged 18, who turns the ball from leg, it is gratifying that England have been flexible enough to make certain that Pocock can be included.

G. O. Allen, among modern England selectors, was more *than once proved correct when* he backed pedigree and class in his choices, ahead of other considerations, and Cowdrey's nomination has to be thought of in that context.

Cowdrey has the knack of picking up useful wickets and he will not let the side down in the field. If he does play, the family will join the Hardstaffs, Huttons, Manns, Parkses, Tates and Townsends in the list of fathers and sons who have won Test caps for England.

Robinson is the second uncapped player in England's 12. He is the seventh new opening partner Fowler has had since *1982* and they have struck up a good understanding. All the main England batsmen have made scores on this tour, even if their techniques will now be severely examined

England have now gone 12 successive Test matches without a victory, equalling their previous worst sequence under M. J. K. Smith and Dexter in the early 1960s. If this unfortunate run is to end, they are going to have to show remarkable character and skill and to have a measure of luck. India have gone even longer without a win (31 matches) but they do start with the advantage of playing at home and they are also considerably more experienced.

Gower has 65 caps, Gatting 30 and Lamb 27; but in Gavaskar, Kirmani, Vengsarkar, Kapil Dev and Amarnath, India have five players who have made 360 Test appearances between them. They have the patient, solid batting which is so crucial in India; and in Kapil Dev they have an all-rounder who might turn the match in half an hour with either bat or ball. India must be considered favourites.

INDIA (from): S M Gavaskar (captain), A D Gaekwad, D B Vengsarkar, M Armarnath, S M Patil, R J Shastri, Kapil Dev, S M H Kirmani, C Sharma, L Sivaramakrishnan, N S Yadav, M Prabhakar.

ENGLAND (from): D I Gower (captain), G Fowler, R T Robinson, M W Gatting, A J Lamb, R M Ellison, C S Cowdrey, P H Edmonds, P R Downton, P J W Allot, N G Cowans, P I Pocock.



Cowdrey: all-rounder with the right pedigree

Hyderabad passes test of time

By Simon Wilde

The Test *match currently taking* place at the Niax Stadium, Hyderabad, between Parkistan and New Zealand is the 1,000th to be played. The 999th, which began in Brisbane last Friday, two days before the Hyderabad match, resulted three days later in West Indies recording a unique tenth successive Test victory.

The precise origins of the term *Test* match are uncertain, although it certainly was not in use in 1877, when what is now accepted as the *first Test took place. A number of* early Tests, particularly those involving South Africa, owe a good deal to the sanctification of time for their status, with the two teams often far from fully representative.

A thrilling win by A. E. Stoddart's side in Australia in 1894-95 created great interest in England, once news got there. England shortly afterwards suffered four successive defeats by Australia and firmer moves were made to encourage the best players to undertake arduous tours *abroad or* desert the more familiar atmosphere of county championship or Gentlemen v Players matches to play for their country.

England's *opponents*, all at *one* time part of the Empire, never failed to take seriously playing them at their own pastime; independence only increased pride. Pakistan have always regarded defeat at home as a national disgrace and they have lost there only six times in 67 Tests.

The 100th Test match was played in 1908, the 200th in 1930, and the 300th in 1948. Since then the frequency has steadily risen: 16.4 Tests a year in the 1950s, 18.6 in the 1960s, 19.8 in the 1970s and to date, *27.4 in the 1980s.*

The Packer episode intensified the international schedule, with cricket boards anxious to keep the top players busy to give them less inclination or opportunity to find more lucrative employment elsewhere, especially in South Africa. One-day internationals, begun in 1970-71, draw crowds and money. They are now as frequent as Test matches, but they are as far removed from them as jazz from the classical symphony.

An official title of world champions has never been awarded, although England won a triangular tournament against Australia and South Africa in England in 1912. Unofficially the title was for long the *property* of either England or Australia, but West Indies held it in the mid-1960s and have largely done so again for the past eight years, during which they have lost only five Tests out of 66 and none of their last 25.

Playing record of Test nations: 1877 to 1984

	First Test	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Tied	Players
England	1876–77	606	222	157	227	-	508
Australia	1876–77	446	190	130	125	1	326
South Africa	1888–89	172	38	77	57	-	235
West Indies	1928	234	82	59	92	1	183
New Zealand	*1929–30*	*162*	*19*	71	71	-	154
India	1932	221	35	80	106	-	167
Pakistan	1954	147	32	36	78	-	101
Sri Lanka	1981–82	12	0	8	4	-	27

*Including match in progress

Boock may hold winning hand for New Zealand

Hyderabad (AFP) – The second *Test between Pakistan and New* Zealand was finely balanced after the touring team, one down in the three-match series, had established a lead of 195 at the end of the third day's play yesterday.

At the close, New Zealand were 158 for eight in their second innings after taking what could prove to be a crucial first innings lead of 37 by bowling out Pakistan for 230. Javed Miandad was the mainstay of the innings, making 104.

The feature of the day's play, which was 132 wickets, all but two to spinners, go down for 229 runs, was the fine bowling of the New Zealand slow left-armer Stephen Boock, who took seven for 87 to pin back the Pakistanis, who were all out shortly after lunch.

Often inconsistent at test level, 33-year-old Boock's performance was the best by a New Zealander in Pakistan and he could record the best match figures for New Zealand against Pakistan.

Pakistan resumed their first innings at 159 for five with Miandad on 73 not out, but Salim Malik, Manzoor Elahi, and Abdul Qadir were cheaply dismissed by *Boock. In the last over before lunch*. Boock claimed the prize wicket of Miandad when he had him caught by Jeff Crowe for 104. Javed stayed at the crease for 235 minutes for his 12th test century which included 12 boundaries.

New Zealand lost four wickets in each of the last two sessions, getting off to a disastrous start when Bruce Edgar was lbw for one in the first over.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 267 (J F Reid 106; Abdul Qadir 4 for 108)

Second innings

J G Wright c Dalpat b Iqbal Qasim	22
R A Edgar l-b-w b Mudassar	1
J F Reid l-b-w b Qadir	21
M D Crowe st Dalpat b Iqbal Qasim	21
*J V Coney b Iqbal Qasim	5
J J Crowe not out	35
†I D S Smith c Mudassar b Azeem	34
F J Gray c Omar Qasim b Iqbal Qasim	5
J G Bracewell c and b Qadir	0
D R Stirling not out	7
Extras (b-1, l-b 3, n-b 3)	7
Total (8 wkts)	158

S L Boock to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-34, 3-58, 4-71, 5-80, 6-125, 7-143, 8-148.

BOWLING: Mudassar 5-2-8-1; Azeem 8-3-33-1; Iqbal Qasim 19-5-69-4; Qadir 13-3-39-2; Zaheer 1-0-5-0.

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 159 for five)

West Indies in a spin over playing Harper

Sydney (AP) – The West Indies face their most perplexing selection question of their Australian tour over the next week when they wrestle with the problem of whether to play a spinner in the Third Test, starting on December 7.

The tourists leave Brisbane for Melbourne today with their four-day match against Victoria at the Melbourne cricket ground due to start on Friday. The indications are that Roger Harper, the off-spinner will figure in team plans for that game.

The problem for West Indies is whether to change the winning formula of four pacemen

Speculation has been mounting that the Australians will opt for a second spinner, the left armer, Murray Bennett, to join Bob Holland, the leg-spinner, in the Third Test team. The flat Adelaide Oval strip traditionally favours the slow men on the final three days. It seems that the West Indies may compromise by including Harper, with occasional bowlers Lay Gomes and Viv Richards also turning their arms.

RUGBY UNION

Boyd injury gives Williams chance with North backs

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The Northern Division's plans for today's game against the Australians at Blundellsands, already disturbed by the withdrawal on Monday of their scrum half and captain, Melville, were further disrupted yesterday when Boyd (West Hartlepool), their full back, dropped out with a hamstring injury. He will be replaced by Williams (Orrell), better known as a half back for Lancashire and during his brief excursion south to play for Harlequins. Against the 1981 Australians, for the North and for Lancashire, he partnered Smith at half back, sharing in the Division side's 6-6 draw. Orrell, however, choose to play him at full back, and his good fortune is Boyd's bad luck, for the full back berth at national level still lacks a secure claimant. A good game today might have cast Boyd back into the limelight he occupied as an under-23 player.

Nevertheless, Williams is well equipped to join a talented back division. Given a reasonable playing surface, there is no reason why the North should not indulge their backs, all of whom have proved themselves exciting runners in one context or another.

Bainbridge gets the opportunity to test his lineout skills against the telescopic Campbell, and an aggressive back row trio will hope for a share of loose possession. It will be illuminating, too, to see what Clive Norling – arguably Britain's leading referee – makes of the game.

Colclough, the Wasps and former England lock, will be out of rugby for some six weeks after breaking his thumb playing for Sussex against Hampshire at the weekend. Any prospect of his being lured out of international retirement to play for England against Romania on January 5 can therefore be discounted.

NORTHERN DIVISION: P Williams (Orrell); M Harrison (Wakefield), K Simms (Cambridge University), B Barley (Wakefield), R Underwood (Leicester); R Andrew (Cambridge University), S Smith (Sale, captain); P Huntsman (Headingley), J Sydall (Waterloo), S Bainbridge (Fylde), P Buckton (Liverpool), P Simpson (Bath).

AUSTRALIANS: J Black; D Campese, M Burke, M Hawker, I Williams; M Ella, P Cox; S Pilecki, T Lawton, G Burrow, W Calcraft, S Williams, (captain), W Campbell, C Roche, S Tuynman.

Referee: C Norling (Wales).

Moss may yet gain England place

There has been an air of unreality about Phil Moss's return to first-class rugby. An 18-month lay-off was started with the tacit assumption that he would probably never play again, but this autumn he muttered to his wife, Anita: "I'll play a few weeks in the thirds and see what happens."



Moss: injuries overcome

Before he could blink he was back in the Orrell first team, was playing for Lancashire again, and today will take his place in the Northern Division team to meet the Australians at Waterloo.

After leaving Rydal, where his precocious talent earned him a considerable reputation, his successes in club, county and representative rugby were offset by a number of injuries: serious back trouble was followed by a lung infection, before a spinal injury suggested that his career was at an end.

Moss, 6ft 4½in and 16st 7lb is outstandingly mobile and a genuine lineout specialist; the esteem in which he was and is held is illustrated by the fact that he has been preferred in the North's team to that excellent flanker, Simon Tipping, of Sale.

His most recent absence, during which he played golf, worked as a director in the family building firm, and desperately missed his rugby, largely coincided with a period of disappointing form from Orrell, despite impressive results. This winter he has helped revitalize their game with an enthusiasm born of the fact that, to him, every match he played is a bonus. Now the tantalizing question must be asked: might he still at 29, represent his country?

Moss himself is rather pessimistic, believing that his chance has probably come and gone; but the current state of English rugby suggests that there has seldom been a better time for the advancement of talent. If he can keep free of further injury, and play today as all Lancashire knows he can, then Orrell might yet celebrate another cap.

Michael Stevenson

When hearings must not be deaf to the players

While Australia's tour has gathered momentum on the playing side the controversy surrounding the sending-off of McBain their reserve hooker, and Wheeler, the former captain of England, during their game with the Midlands, has rumbled on (David Hands writes). It was refuelled over the weekend when the four home unions rebuked Alan Jones, the Australian coach, for his public outburst following the disciplinary hearings: the unions were then predictably rebuked by Mr Jones for trying to intimidate him.

Wheeler is taking no further steps in the matter. He had consulted a barrister about the legal implications arising from the tribunal's failure to accept his word on what took place, supported by a video recording, a copy of which Wheeler sent to Wnston Jones, the referee.

"It's all over, the sentence is nearly finished now", Wheeler said. "The only thing I find upsetting is that someone has publicly accused me of doing somwthing I didn't do - and there are members of the public who have come up to me and said I had'nt done it, as well as the BBC video tape.

"But there is no machinery for challenging the findings. If there is to be no right of appeal (the machinery for which exists in domestic club games), then perhaps the four home unions should insist upon the referee attending the hearing."

During the four hours which the tribunal took to hear the case, Winston Jones was contacted on the telephone to see if he wished to alter his original statement. He did not and he has repeated the same assertion to Wheeler after having received the video.

"When people start putting automatic bans as punishment for a dismissal, then the procedure leading up to that should be fair", Wheeler added. He has the support of Eric Macklam, whose experience within the game includes several years as chairman of the Notts, Lincs and Derby disciplinay committee.

Mr Macklam writes: "The interpretation of law does vary: the law is made to allow the referee to be the sole judge and in this case a very severe judgment for resisting an obstruction . . . this type of case makes the reason for allowing the disciplinary committees to deal with each case individually far stronger. The 30-day automatic suspension was needed to make us seem to be doing something about violence, but I am sure it has passed its usefulness due to the tremendous variation in refereeing standards."

There remains no reason why a disciplinary hearing should not recognize evidence other than the referee's and why rules framed before video recordings were available should not be changed to allow their admissability.

Some players will still not benefit because there will be no camera to record guilt or innocence; some players may suffer because of it. Perhaps a gentle push at the International Board by the Rugby Football Union is in order after a case which plainly indicates more than one side to a particular question.

POWERBOATING

Molinari opts for life in the workshop

By a Special Correspondent

Renato Molinari, the Formula One world champion in circuit racing, has announced that he will not defend his title in 1985. The Italian, aged 38, has won three world championships in the last four years, and has a total of 18 world titles, 11 European titles and 12 world speed records to his credit.

Besides honing his driving skills to such a degree that he was virtually unbeatable in the latter half of his 20-year career, Molinari has also become one of the top designers and builders of the lightweight catamarans used in the 140 mph class. The Martini driver intends to continue developing racing hulls and will train and manage drivers, but his withdrawal from racing has prompted Martini, his sponsors, to end their involvement in the sport.

The Italian is quitting after the loss of two other established drivers, Britain's Tom Percival, following a fatal accident in August, and Roger Jenkins, who retired immediately after Percival's death. In addition, the one man regularly to have challenged Molinari over the years, the Dutchman, Cees van der Velden, will not confirm whether he will be racing in 1985.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30, unless stated

UEFA Cup, third round

Manchester United v Dundee United

Tottenham Hotspur v Bohemians (Prague) (8.0)

Other matches: Anderlecht v Real Madrid (7.0); Spartak Moscow c FC Cologne (4.0); Universitaten Craiova v Zeljeznicar (12.0); Hamburg v Internazionale (7.0); Videoton v Partizan Belgrade (4.0); Widzew Lodz v Dynamo Minsk (4.0).

Third division

Bradford City v Millwall

Derby County v Doncaster Rovers

Lincoln v Cambridge United

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: Bill Dellow Cup: Second round: Basingstoke v Aylesbury; Cheltenham v Moor Green; King's Lynn v Chelmsford; Willenhall v Forest Green.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn v Everton (7.0); Huddersfield v Aston Villa; Nottingham Forest v Coventry (7.0); Stoke City v Newcastle United (7.0); West Bromwich Albion v Sheffield United (7.0); Second division: Hull City v Rotherham; Scunthorpe v Middlesborough; York City v Grimsby (7.0).

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Second division north: Flackwell Heath v Letchworth Garden City.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: AFA XI v Royal Navy (Cuaco FC, 2.15).

UAU CHAMPIONSHIP: South, fifth place play-off: Bath v East Anglia (2.15).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Northern Division v Australians (Waterloo, 2.15).

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend v South Glamorgan Institute (7.15); Cardiff v Llanelli (7.15); Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (7.0); Gloucester v Loughborough Students (7.0); Moseley v Fylde; Newport v Bath (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: SCWAAA Open meeting (Crystal Palace NSC, 6.30).

HOCKEY: Atari London League: (2.15) Hawks v Cambridge University; Oxford University v Slough (Bisham Abbey, 7.0).

REAL TENNIS: George Wimpey Open singles and doubles (Queen's Club, West Kensington).

SNOOKER: Coral UK Professional Tournament

MOTOR RALLYING: Lombard RAC rally.

RACING: O'GORMAN'S COLT REWARDED FOR HIS TENACIOUS TWO-YEAR-OLD CAMPAIGN

Provideo voted racehorse of the year

By Michael Seely

Provideo has been voted "racehorse of the year for 1984" in preference to Teenoso and El Gran Señor. Bill O'Gorman's two-year-old, whose tally of 16 victories last season equalled The Bard's 99-year-old record, is the first of his age group to be given this award in its 20-year history.

Sponsored by the Racecourse Association, the award is intended for the "horse which has done the most for British racing during the season". Seventeen of the 30 journalists who make up the panel went for Provideo.

Provideo's triumphant progress started with a victory in the Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster, the very first race of the season. After recording his sixteenth victory at Redcar, Ahmed Foustok's Godswalk colt was sent to Hollywood Park where he finished unplaced behind Overtrump in the Buckpasser Stakes.

By far and away the outstanding performance at a gale swept Huntingdon yesterday was the stylish victory of Carved Opal in the Peterborough Steeplechase. Ridden with patience and restraint by the incomparable John Francome, Fred Winter's six-year-old joined the leaders at the second fence from home and sprinted clear on the run-in to beat The Tsarevich.

Winter was delighted with Carved Opal's win. He clearly thinks that this vast improving gelding has a good chance of crediting Uplands with its third consecutive victory in the Kennedy Construction Gold Cup at Cheltenham on Saturday week.

Other likely runners at Cheltenham are Against The Grain, who is to run in the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle Trial and Browne's Gazette, who is to take on Gaye Brief in the Tia Maria Bula Hurdle. Against The Grain's trainer, David Nicholson, was at Huntingdon to watch Peter Scudamore ride Leander Blue to a 20 lengths win over W Six Times in the BBC Radio Cambridge Handicap Chase.

Dermot Browne was representing Monica Dickinson, the trainer of the runner-up, and the news from Harewood is that both The Mighty Mac and Sabin du Loir are on the injured list.

Robin Wonder has been installed favourite at 5-1 with the sponsors for the Mecca Bookmakers Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday. Seventeen have been declared for the most competitive handicap run in the first half of the season. John Francome has been booked by Roger Fisher to partner Ballydurrow who will be attempting to repeat the stable's 1980 triumph with the ill-fated Ekbalco. For the second weekend running Francome will be replacing Phil Tuck on a big race candidate, as the Yorkshire jockey rode Ballydurrow when the gelding was runner-up to Browne's Gazette in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle.



Sprinting to the top: Provideo achieved 16 successes, equalling The Bard's 1885 record.

Treyford can seal a Forster double

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Tim Forster and Hywel Davies look the combination most likely to succeed at Ludlow today. At Newbury, a fortnight ago, Davies won the Winterbourne Handicap Chase for Forster on MISTY FORT, who now appears to have a good chance of winning the Ludford Handicap Chase, even though she has been penalized. Misty Fort jumps well and revels in soft ground so the more rain that falls the merrier she will be.

Her stable companion TREYFORD is tapped to give his trainer and jockey a second taste of success by winning the Malden Timber Novice Hurdle (Qualifier).

Running for the first time in public, at Fontwell earlier this month, this gelding by that prolific sire of jumpers, Deep Run, performed with a degree of promise when he finished third to It's Tough and Air Space in an identical race.

ANNESLEY, who also showed promise in his only race under National Hunt rules, albeit two seasons ago, is expected to give his backers a good run in the Halford Novices' Hurdle, while earlier in the day I will not be at all surprised if the St John and Red Cross Novices' Chase is won by ROSTRA who won over hurdles twice last winter and shaped nicely in her only race this season.

At Plumpton it may well pay to follow David Oughton who trains not far from the course at Findon. SWIFT ROYALE, his runner for the NCP Barrier Novices' Chase, has already won twice over today's course and distance this season. His opposition today looks anything but testing.

His stable companion ROUND THE TWIST has an even better record racing around the notoriously tricky Sussex course, with four victories over three miles and a furlong to his credit. So following that laudable effort at Windsor, where he beat Doubleusgain he can land a fifth victory in the Peter Cazalet Memorial Challenge Trophy.

Richard Dunwoody, who has made an immediate impact in this his first season as a professional jockey, looks to have a good chance of winning the Sir Alfred McAlpine Homes Handicap Chase on CRESUN. By Sunyboy out of Credo's Daughter, Crusun sports a pedigree that is packed full of jumping blood. He lived up to it at Windsor earlier this month when he gave a faultless display of fencing to win his first steeplechase at the first attempt.

Leading fillies at Newmarket

By Simon O'Loughlin

The 1,000 Guineas third, Desirable, whose victory in the Cheveley Park Stakes was emulated this season by her half-sister Park Appeal, is one of the most notable entries in Tattersall's December Sales, which opens at Newmarket today.

Other attractions include the first two in last year's May Hill Stakes, Satinette and Nepula. Other top fillies are the well bred Seattle Slew Lacune, and Miss Silca Key, the winner of this year's Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Camacho breeds first winner

Maurice Camacho, the Malton trainer, bred his first winner when Lanhydrock took the Tadcaster Novices hurdle at Wetherby yesterday. Lanhydrock, backed from 5-1 to 7-2 favourite, beating Worling-Fearl by four lengths

Ron Forsyth, the winning jockey, has had to be patient to return to the winner's enclousure. It was three and a half years ago that the former Ron Smyth jockey was last there.

Mandy Harrison, gained her fourth success under rules when riding Swift Albany to win the Harrogate Conditional Jockeys Handicap Chase.

PLUMPTON

GOING: Soft

1.0 NOVEMBER THREE–YEAR–OLD NOVICE HURDLE (Div I: £548: 2m) (13 runners)

1 112 NOBLE JACK (D) (Mrs B Curley) D Thom 11-6 ... Mr D Murphy 4
6 BEAU FILS (J Chitty) P Mitchell 10-10 ... A Wright 7
9 00p EWELL PLACE (B) (T Mills) A Ingham 10-10 ... Steve Knight
11 HASTY THIEF (Mrs J Murray-Smith) D Murray-Smith 10-10 ... R Dunwoody
12 00 IL SARACENO (Mrs T Pinks) J Bosley 10-10 ... Mr M Bosley 7
13 LETCHWORTH (C Driscoll) C Horgan 10-10 ... L Mancini 7
14 u22 RUSSBOROUGH (R Wise) B Wise 10-10 ... R Rowell
15 THE REEDCUTTER (D Larke) Mrs N Smith 10-10 ... R Rowe
16 TREACY'S CHOICE (E Treacy) J Bridger 10-10 ... A Jones 7
17 6 WOODWAY (K Bell) D Wintle 10-10 ... R Hyett
18 CARADO (B Whatley) C Nelson 10-5 ... P Leach
19 p MY DITTY (Mrs A Upsdell) M Pipe 10-5 ... K Townsend 7
20 RAINBOW LADY (M Pipe) M Pipe 10-5 ... R Atkins

1983: Record Dancer 11-1 S Smith Eccles (1-5 fav) G Pritchard-Gordon 6 ran.

7-4 Noble Jack, 9-4 Russborough, 5 Letchworth, 7 Hasty Thief, 8 The Reedcutter, 12 Rainbow Lady, 14 others.

FORM: NOBLE JACK, (11-0) 30l 2nd of 13 to Wing And A Prayer (10-10) at Kempton, previously (11-7) beat Hasty Days (11-7) 6l at Navan (2nd hdle, £1,035, good, Sept 17, 7 ran). IL SARACENO (10-12) well placed until approaching 3 our when 8th of 14 to Beat The Retreat (10-12) at Nottingham (2m hdle, £2,729, good to soft, Nov 23). RUSSBOROUGH (11-0) 12l 2nd of 15 to Against The Grain at Newbury (2m hdle, £1,404, heavy, Nov 23). WOODWAY (10-10) bit backward and not jump well when 26 ½l 5th of 17 to Come On Gracie (10-12) at Devon (2m 1f, hdle, £487, soft, Nov 1).
Selection: NOBLE JACK.

1.30 N. C. P. BARRIER NOVICE CHASE (£1,954: 2m 4f) (9)

1 000-112 SWIFT ROYALE (CD) (A Sandeman) D Oughton 6-11-13 ... P Double
2 40124b CITY MARATHON (R Orgles) J Ffith-Heyes 6-11-6 ... Penny Ffitch-Heyes 7
4 000-000 ARMATRIST (N Wheeler) N Wheeler 5-11-3 ... Mr N Wheeler
7 BRAMBLE WALK (N Greenwood) R Parker 7-11-3 ... Mr T Grantham 7
9 000- HOW ABOUT THAT (Hillfields Farming) E Witts 6-11-3 ... C Mann
11 000003- NOTRE CHEVAL (P Hamlyn) S Mellor 5-11-3 ... M Perrett
12 f3f/0p0 STREAMLINER (P H Betts Ltd) J Gifford 8-11-3 ... R Rowe
13 02/04p- KALE BRIG (P Axon) P Bowden 9-10-12 ... R Linley
14 p/4p00- SPARTIQUICK (J Castle) J Castle 7-10-12 ... Mr R Mann 4

1983: Weston Favell 6-11-3 J Francome (2-1 fav) N Gaselee 9 ran.

2 Swift Royale, 3 Notre Cheval, 4 City Marathon, 6 Streamliner, 8 Kale Brig, 12 Bramble Walk, 16 others.

FORM: SWIFT ROYALE, (11-6) 1½l 2nd of 10 to Quayside Battle (10-10) at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yds ch, £1,542, soft, Nov 6). CITY MARATHON, brought down last time, previously (10-0) 34l 4th of 11 to Grey Tarquin in handicap here (3m 1f ch, £1,632, good to firm, Oct 17). NOTRE CHEVAL (11-7) 3¾l 3rd of 7 to Russell Up at Uttoxeter (2m 4f hdle, £929, good to firm, May 28).
Selection: SWIFT ROYALE.

2.0 PETER CAZALET MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY (Handicap chase: £2,040: 3m 1f) (9)

1 30440p- TACROY (A Duffield) M Masson 10-12-2 ... A Stringer
3 00/pp-f DONJILL (D Greig) D Greig 10-11-7 ... –
4 p1-3341 ROUND THE TWIST (CD) (A Ross) D Oughton 8-10-13 (5 ex) ... P Double
6 21213-0 SAUNDERS (CD) (T Clay) T Clay 10-10-6 ... J Lovejoy
7 1pp-042 MASTER NIBBLE (C Holmes) C Holmes 9-10-1 ... A Webb
8 0/004p- GUN METAL (CD) (Hillfields Farming) E Witts 9-10-0 ... C Mann
10 10/f-50 REVOLVER (J Woodman) S Woodman 7-10-0 ... R Dunwoody
12 000-f00 DONAGHMOYNE (C Ward) Miss L Bower 7-10-0 ... R Rowell
13 31f-fp4 KASHILL (C) (J Bird) A Moore 6-10-0 ... G Moore

1983: Round The Twist 7-11-7 R Rowe (40-85 fav) D Oughton 3 ran.

13-8 Round The Twist, 100-30 Master Nibble, 9-2 Saunders, 6 Kashill, 8 Revolver, 12 Tacroy, 14 others.

FORM: TACROY, pulled up final start, earlier (10-0) 6½l 4th of 10 to Midnight Love at Haydock (3m ch, £11,343, good, Mar 3). ROUND THE TWIST (10-6) ¾l Windsor scorer from Doubleusgain (11-7), with DONAGHMOYNE (10-0) 30l back in 5th, SAUNDERS (10-4) 7th, and DONJILL (11-5) well beaten when falling two out (3m ch, £1,716, good to soft, Nov 19, 9 ran). SAUNDERS dual course and distance winner on soft ground, including in January (10-5) when ROUND THE TWIST (11-3) was beaten 27l in 4th £2,134, heavy, Jan 30, 13 ran). MASTER NIBBLE (10-13) 1½l 2nd and REVOLVER (10-8) 26l further back in 5th behind Tom Tailor (10-13) at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yds ch, £2,243, soft, Nov 21). Back in January MASTER NIBBLE (10-0) beat SAUNDERS (10-3) ½l at Lingfield, with DONAGHMOYNE (10-0) 26l away in 5th (3m ch, £2,210, heavy, Jan 19, 10 ran).
Selection: MASTER NIBBLE.

2.30 STANMER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£693: 2m) (9)

2 01f006/ BROKEN FLIGHT (D) (L Wells) J Davies 7-11-13 ... A Jones
3 002/0-p CAPTAIN FANTASTIC (A Smith) A Davison 6-11-11 ... –
6 00/4f30 SOCK DENNIS (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-10-10 ... S Earle
7 000f4-0 STAR OF SALFORD (C Harvey) J Long 6-10-9 ... P Howe 5
8 000/0 AMBERARIES (J Baker) J H Baker 9-10-8 ... C Evans
9 00/400- RED AMBION (CD) (Mrs C Leather) J Long 12-10-8 ... Leesa Long 5
12 P000/0- MULLENAN (D) (P Perrett) J Perrett 9-10-2 ... C Cox 5
15 3/pp-p0 AIRBORNE DEAL (K Higson) A Moore 5-10-0 ... C Warren
16 000/0p MOUNTCOUT (P Houlihan) H Beasley 5-10-0 ... G Charles-Jones

1983: Merored 4-10-12 G Madgwick (11-2) M Madgwick 8 ran.

11-4 Sock Dennis, 3 Red Ambion, 4 Star Of Salford, 6 Airborne Deal, 8 Captain Fantastic, 10 Amberaries, 12 others.

FORM: SOCK DENNIS (10-11) beaten a distance in 5th by King's Singer (10-12) at Fontwell, earlier 28l 3rd to Who's Driving (11-2) here (2m ch, £606, soft, Nov 12, 6 ran). STAR OF SALFORD (11-0) and AIRBOURNE DEAL (11-0) out of first 9 behind Trumps (11-0), last year STAR OF SALFORD (11-2) 7l 4th to Ballyseedy Hero here (2m hdle, £773, hard, Apr 23, 11 ran).
Selection: STAR OF SALFORD

Plumpton selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Russborough. 1.30 Swift Royale. 2.0 Round The Twist. 2.30 Sock Dennis. 3.0 Cresun. 3.30 Meziara.

By Michael Seely

2.0 ROUND THE TWIST (nap). 3.0 Manston Marauder.

3.0 SIR ALFRED McALPINE HOMES HANDICAP CHASE (£1,861: 2m) (5)

1 40411-2 MANSTON MARAUDER (C) (Lt-Col E Harries) J Fox 8-11-10 ... S Moore
2 40-0033 TEN BEARS (D) (Air Commodore C Kunkler) T M Jones 8-11-5 G Charles-Jones 4
3 30000-1 CRESUN (J Bolam) S Woodman 5-11-4 (5 ex) ... R Dunwoody
4 1-14000 HANOVER PRINCE (K Noquet) H O'Neill 9-10-0 ... M Hammond
5 000000/ PASQUIER (T Charni) H O'Neill 5-10-0 ... –

1983: Falkland Palace 6-11-3 P Barton (5-6 fav) D Gandolfo 4 ran.

11-8 Manston Marauder, 5-2 Cresun, 3 Ten Bears, 10 Hanover Prince, 12 Pasquier.

FORM: MANSTON MARAUDER (10-0) 10l runner up to Beau Ranger (10-9) at Devon (2m 1f ch, £1,716, soft, Nov 2, 12 ran). TEN BEARS (10-0) 18l 3rd to Rommany Nightshade at Ascot (2m ch, £6,313, good, Nov 16, 6 ran). CRESUN (10-12) beat Overaway (11-5) by 7l at Windsor (2m ch, £1,223, good, Nov 10, 14 ran).
Selection: CRESUN

3.30 NOVEMBER THREE–YEAR–OLD NOVICE HURDLE (Div II: £548: 2m) (15)

1 3411 STEAMY (D) (J Moreton) D Murray-Smith 11-6 ... R Dunwoody
2 BURNS LAD (P Wright) N Lee-Judson 10-10 ... K Burke 7
4 04 CORRAGARY (D Robinson) D Elsworth 10-10 ... C Brown
8 MARK KELLY (N Thomas) R Simpson 10-10 ... N Fearn 7
9 00 MEZIARA (G Chagoury) A Ingham 10-10 ... Steve Knight
10 MILLTOWN BOY (Mrs C Leeson) B Wise 10-10 ... R Rowell
11 OPENING BARS (C Nelson) D Oughton 10-10 ... P Double
13 POP PICKER (J Horgan) C Horgan 10-10 ... E Murphy 7
16 002 WASSEM (R Ellis) J Jenkins 10-10 ... J Francome
17 0 YOUNG BUCKERS (D Nabki) M Haynes 10-10 ... A Wright 7
18 0 APRON BLUE (E McGuinness) M O'Halloran 10-5 ... K Mooney
19 4 MY AISLING (BF) (S Harvey) M Pipe 10-5 ... P Leach
20 RELKISHA (Capt M Lemos) D Wintle 10-5 ... A Carroll
21 TENDER LOVE (Mrs L Ingham) A Ingham 10-5 ... E Waite
22 VELA ROSSA (N McConnell) N Gaselee 10-5 ... V McKevitt

1983: Jack Ramsey 11-6 P Barton (1-3 fav) M McCormack 6 ran.

5-2 Wassem, 7-2 Steamy, 4 My Aisling, 6 Corragary, 8 Pop Picker, 10 Opening Bars, 12 Tender Love, 14 others.

FORM: STEAMY (10-1) beat Karnatak (10-5) by 2l at Warwick (2m hdle, £597, good, Nov 17, 18 ran). CORRAGARY (10-10) badly hampered 1st and blundered last when 42½l 4th to Wing And A Prayer (10-10) at Kempton (2m hdle, £1,826, good to soft, Nov 8, 13 ran). WASSEN (11-0) 7l runner up to Double Swing at Newbury (2m hdle, £1,285, good, Nov 7, 11 ran).
Selection: WASSEN

LUDLOW

GOING: good

12.45 CRAVEN ARMS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£636: 2m) (10 runners)

3 00021/ CANDAULES (C James) C James 6-11-9 ... –
5 0/3020- PAMPERED GIPSY (R Baker) J H Baker 5-11-2 ... G Newman
6 3-00200 ERIC'S WISH (D Jones) Mrs J Evans 4-10-13 ... R Crank
7 0-03102 HAND MAID (D Thompson) D McCain 4-10-12 ... K Doolan
8 0/0-3f0 RUSTY BOY (R Brown) R Brown 5-10-9 ... J Brown 7
9 133042- SEVERN SOUND (D) (J Bradley) J M Bradley 6-10-9 ... Sharron James 7
11 0-222p9 BOLD RODERICK (G Richards) D Burchell 5-10-5 ... C Seward
12 00-2 DANE PEGGY (BF) (M Jones) J Old 4-10-4 ... Mr C Llewellyn 7
15 0000-00 TENNIS TRACK (M Stephens) M Stephens 6-10-0 ... Philip Hobbs
16 00033 ARRAS GIRL (B) (Mrs T Hassell) O O'Neill 5-10-0 ... W Hayes 7

1983: Abandoned – severe frost.

2 Hand Maid, 3 Severn Sound, 9-2 Arras Girl, 7 Bold Roderick, 8 Pampered Gipsy, 10 Erics Wish, 14 others.

Tim Forster and Hywel Davies, who are fancied to score with Misty Fort (1.45) and Treyford (2.15)

1.15 ST JOHN & RED CROSS NOVICE CHASE (5-y-o: £931: 2m) (9)

1 f130-10 QUICK REPLY (C,D) (D Gallop) D Gandolfo 11-0 ... R Earnshaw
2 b2p-pfp BRIGADIER ROSE (G Harris) M Stephens 10-12 ... Philip Hobbs
3 130f0f CHIEF BLACKFOOT (B Kelson) J Old 10-12 ... G Bradley
4 3240-04 FARE LOVE (E Evans) E Evans 10-12 ... P Warner
6 f00-0 FLUID (H Collins) Mrs M Rimell 10-12 ... S Morshead
7 013-pp HURRY UP HENRY (Lady H St George) T Forster 10-12 ... H Davies
8 0000-00 ICE LAD (T Connop) D Nicholson 10-12 ... P Scudamore
9 031-000 MARINA STAR (D) (C Sanderson) O O'Neill 10-12 ... J Suthern
12 02444-0 ROSTRA (Col A Taylor) R Armytage 10-7 ... A Webber

5-2 Fare Love, 7-2 Fluid, 9-2 Hurry Up Henry, 6 Ice Lad, 8 Rostra, Marina Star, Quick Reply, 12 others.

1.45 LUDFORD HANDICAP CHASE (£1,371: 2m 4f) (10)

2 f013-01 MISTY FORT (J Sumner) T Forster 6-12-0 (7 ex) ... H Davies
7 p3/0-22 WINGETTS (F Wingett) Mrs M Rimell 8-11-4 ... S Morshead
9 2-1130 NETHERBRIDGE (D) (BF) (M Vigors) D Gandolfo 6-11-3 ... R Earnshaw
10 220-23f GREEN DOLPHIN (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 10-11-1 ... R Crank
11 p4033-0 LUMPARITA (C,D) (A Aylett) A Aylett 9-11-0 ... G Jones
12 33-40pp THE FLOORLAYER (D) (Miss R Dudley) J M Bradley 9-10-12 ... G Newman
13 0/2130- CITADEL ROC (Miss R Dudley) J M Bradley 9-10-12 ... B Powell 4
15 u0300-3 SHOTANG (D) (D Pearce) T Bill 9-10-6 ... G Williams 7
17 p84400 LITTLE TROUBLE (C Hitchings) C Hitchings 8-10-5 ... R Kington
19 p3-32b0 OULART HILL (T Cooper) M Oliver 8-10-0 ... S J O'Neill

2 Misty Fort, 3 Wingetts, 5 Netherbridge, 7 Shotang, 10 Green Dolphin, Lumparita, 16 others.

Ludlow selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Bold Roderick. 1.15 Rostra. 1.45 Misty Fort. 2.15 TREYFORD (nap). 2.45 Bashful Lad. 3.15 Annesley.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 Wingetts.

2.15 MALDEN TIMBER NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier: £1,334: 2m) (15)

1 p-12 NEW KAYBER (A Jacobs) D Gandolfo 5-11-5 ... R Earnshaw
5 000-000 GOLD ACE (W Whiston) W Whiston 4-11-0 ... S J O'Neill
6 GOLDEN RAIDER (Mrs W Gartlan) D Nicholson 4-11-0 ... P Scudamore
8 8 HIGHWOOD (J Clarke) B McMahon 4-11-0 ... R Crank
11 04-0 MR MCGEE (I Wills) N Henderson 4-11-0 ... J White
12 00 STEVASA (D Barons) D Barons 5-11-0 ... J Frost
14 p0-p0 TOOLEY STREET (Mrs M Wates) C Wates 5-11-0 ... A Webber
15 3 TREYFORD (S Sainsbury) T Forster 4-11-0 ... H Davies
16 0 APRIL GEM (P Phillips) D Burchell 4-10-9 ... –
17 4p BASSINET (A Mildmay-White) G Thorner 4-10-9 ... P Barton
18 000 BLACK DELIGHT (G Williams) D Burchell 4-10-9 ... C Seward
19 000-0p GRAY ROSE–BAY (Mrs R Jones) E Owen jun 4-10-9 ... S Youlden
21 MADAM SHAKIRA (M Lilley) M Cousins 5-10-9 ... –
23 0- ROSEZEL (Mrs L Turner) Mrs E Kennard 5-10-9 ... G McCourt
24 22 SPARTAN NATIVE (D Brereton) Mrs E Kennard 5-10-9 ... I D Davies 7

8-11 Treyford, 4 New Kayber, 6 Mr McGee, 8 Spartan Native, 10 Stevasa, 16 Highwood, Golden Raider, 25 others.

2.45 COURT OF HILL AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE (£1,196: 3m) (5)

1 31-o203 BASHFUL LAD (C,D) (Mrs F Parkes) M Oliver 9-12-0 ... J Weston
3 1p4/f-p TENS OR BETTER (D) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) R B Francis 10-11-0 ... R Beggan
5 f934/1- BEE ORCHID (C Hallyer) K Bailey 8-10-7 ... M Armytage 7
7 044-0pp OAKPRIME (D) (D Pitcher) D Pitcher 9-10-3 ... D Pitcher 7
8 40000/u DUTCH CHALLENGER (A Hollingsworth) A Hollingsworth 7-10-0 ... A Denson 7

4-7 Bashful Lad, 5-2 Bee Orchid, 10 Tens Or Better, 12 Oakprime, 20 Dutch Challenger.

3.15 HALFORD NOVICE HURDLE (£511: 2m) (18)

1 4/ ANNESLEY (Mrs M Musters) N Gaselee 5-10-10 ... S Smith Eccles
4 4 CELTIC BOB (S Cooper) O O'Neill 4-10-10 ... M Caswell 4
5 344034 COOMBE SPIRIT (R Elsey) J H Baker 4-10-10 ... G Newman
6 p-40304 DAWN'S LAD (H Strickland) G Price 6-10-10 ... W Morris 4
7 000003- FOUNTAIN VALLEY (J Brook) Miss A King 5-10-10 ... J Burke
8 04-p040 FULVIO (B) (Miss W Redman) J Jenkins 4-10-10 ... –
9 GUN-CARRIAGE (Mrs G Jones) A W Jones 4-10-10 ... Miss D Jones 7
10 002130 HAVEN'S PRIDE (D) (B Brazier) M Castell 5-10-10 ... M Bowlby 7
14 0p- KENSWICK (Mrs S Tainton) Mrs S Tainton 4-10-10 ... C Smith
15 00- MERCHANT FRUITERER (L Perry) B McMahon 4-10-10 ... Mr E McMahon 7
16 RUSTSTONE (R Brown) R Brown 4-10-10 ... J Brown 7
17 0-00000 SOME JET (Miss P Kissock-Smith) R Peacock 6-10-10 ... R Crank
18 00000-0 THE DROVER (Mrs V Harding) D Barons 7-10-10 ... H Davies
19 200-433 TIN BOY (T Fry) D Ringer 5-10-10 ... S J O'Neill
22 000/000 CASTLE COR (C Creed) M Oliver 7-10-5 ... R Crank
23 00/3 CRISP AND KEEN (B Moseley) K White 6-10-5 ... P Finch 7
26 0 MERRY CHERRY (R Burton) Mrs W Sykes 5-10-5 ... S Morshead
27 0p0- REGENT'S NIECE (D Scott) E Owen jun 4-10-5 ... R Strange

7-2 Celtic Bob, 5 Fulvio, 6 Havens Pride, 8 Coombe Spirit, Dawns Lad, 10 Annesley, Tin Boy, 12 Castle Cor, Crisp And Keen, 16 others.

Course specialists

LUDLOW

TRAINERS: A Aylett 6 winners from 11 runners, 54.50%; J Jenkins 6 from 32, 18.80%; D Nicholson 13 from 77, 16.90%.

PLUMPTON

TRAINERS: T Clay 11 winners from 30 runners, 36.7%; S Mellor 12 from 36, 33.33%; M Masson 12 from 51, 23.30%.

Huntingdon results

GOING: good.

1.0 (2m ch) 1, WARNER FOR LEISURE (R Earnshaw 9-4); 2, Stray Shot (R Rowe, 7-4 fav); 3, St William (Peter Hobbs 50-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Work Mate (6th), 9 Tony Owen (4th), 12 Southern Bird (Fell), Staggerers Lady (5th), John Standish (fell), 50 Bleathwood (fell), Duran (refused), Royal Riches (pulled up), Brightlingsea (pulled up). 12 ran. 12l, 15l, sh hd, 10l, 12l. D Gandolfo at Wantage. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £1.00, £6.90. DF: £5.80. CSF: £6.96.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, HALL'S PRINCE (B Reilly, 9-4 fav); 2, Gold Hunter (R Linley, 13-2); 3, Solzanie Guinze (C Smith, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Maktiss, 5 Pat On The Back (4th), 15-2 Lucklifte (6th), 9 Have You Time, 10 Amilis, 16 Calico Girl (5th), 33 In A Dream, Orange Nest (pulled up), Moober Star. 12 ran. 3l, 15l, 4l, 7l, 10l. G. Balding at Weyhill. Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £3.80, £3.70. DF: £25.10. CSF: £19.45. Bought in 1,500 gns.

2.0 (3m ch) 1, LEANDER BLUE (P Scudamore, 7-4); 2, W Six Times (R Earnshaw, 5-6 fav); 3, Sonny May (R Rowe, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 9 Ebony Bill (4th). 4 ran. 25l, 7l, 30l. D Nicholson at Stow on the Wold. TOTE: £2.50; £1.90. CSF: £3.57.

2.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, FAST LADY (S Smith Eccles, 7-2); 2, Restful Lady (J Nolan, 50-1); 3, La Margarite (Ruth Hargreaves, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 2 fav Yellow Iris (5th), 9-2 Wildwood Moss, 7 Gilberts Choice, 14 Celtic Burn, Faster Still (6th), 20 Chaffcombe (PU), Preacher's Gem (PU), Rue-The-Day (fell), Silver Design, Sunny Salome, 33 Frating (PU), 50 Bellona's Emma (PU), Bug Time, Kelly's Festival, Miss Fidger (fell), My Name Is Nobody (4th), Mr Romany Rose, Shirlstar Miss, Sparkler Superb. 22 ran. 8l, 2, 8l, neck, 1l. N Henderson at Lambourn. TOTE: £4.70; £1.80, £23.70, £2.00. DF: (winner or second with any other) £1.70. CSF: £182.32.

3.0 (2m 4f ch) 1, CARVED OPAL (J Francombe, 5-1); 2, Kathies Lad (G Newman, 7-4 jt-fav); 3, The Tsarevich (J White, 7-4 jt fav). Also ran: 9 Iden Green (4th) Left Bank (5th) 5 ran 2½ hd, 15l, 10l, F Winter at Lambourn Tote £4.10; £1.10, £1.70. DF: £4.80. CSF: £13.21.

3.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, AIRWAIR (R Linley, 11-4); 2, Pasiatlan (S Smith Eccles 6-4 fav); 3, Lochrun (M Pismail, 5-1). Also ran: 10 Hubli (5th), 11 Milora (4th), Woolcowers, 12 Polo Boy, 14 Cruden Bay (6th), 25 Mithras (slipped up) 33 Al Sandro, 50 Precipice Moss. Our Lal (pulled up). 12 ran. neck, 8l, sh hd, 8l. R Hodges at Somerton Tote £3.70; £1.10; £1.40. £2.50. DF: £2.90. CSF: £7.94. Tricast: £20.03. Placepot: £28.65.

Newton Abbot

Going: Soft.

1.0 (2m hdle) 1, PANTO PRINCE (B Powell, 3-1); 2, Crimson Sol (P Barton, 5-2 fav); 3, G W Supermare (C Brown, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 14 Kabuli, 16 Invisible Ring (4th), 20 Darago, Mr Menacing (fell), 25 Keyboard King (5th), Teletrader (6th), 33 Hillybilly (p/u), Better Judgement, Full Price (fell), Lydecott Moon, Mayspring, Maraton Moor. 15 ran. NR: Bennington. 4l, 1l, 10l, 2½l, 7l. L Kennard at Taunton. TOTE: £3.20; £1.10, £2.00, £1.10. DF: £6.40. CSF: £10.41.

1.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, ROYSCAR (R Millman, 16-1); 2, Royal Norman (G McCourt, 9-4 jt-fav); 3, Master Smudge (R Hoare, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 jt-fav Cheadle Green (4th), 9-2 Pay Freeze (5th), 5 Rook Wood (u/r), 16 Gilded Gold (p/u) 7 ran. 6l, 10l, 2½l, 30l. J Cherin at Exeter TOTE: £12.40; £2.20, £2.40. DF: £24.00. CSF £49.62.

2.00 (2m hdle) 1, CATS EYES (P Leach, 6-1); 2, Maldon Lady (B Wright, 4-1); 3, Celtic Bob (M. Caswell, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Fav Air Space (6th), 4 Majuba Road (6th). 20 Great Western Ryme, Joscilla (4th); Somerville Star (BR/DOWN). Sunday Gang: 50 Crowman: Golden Delicious, Peartroy, Seventh Season (FELL), Friday Jane, Royal Buskins, Tom's Comedy. 16 ran. 12l, ½l, hd, 7l, 5l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £7.70; £1.40, £2.50, £3.20. DF: £14.90. C.S.F. £28.68.

2.30 (2m hdle) 1, MOPSY LOVEJOY (R Muggeridge, 15-8 fav); 2, Red Report (Sharron James, 8-1); 3, Getting Plenty (C Brown, 3-1). Also ran: 8 Drum Maker (6th), Sandicliffe Again (P.U.), 9 Top Reef (5th), 12 Miss Black Glama, 25 Inspired (4th), 33 Smithy Lane (P/U), 50 Dusty Dora (P/U). at Bramley. 10 ran. 10l, sh hd, 12l, 3l, 8l. B Stevens. Tote: £3.30; £1.10, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £12.20. C.S.F. £16.74. TRICAST: £40.69. Bought in 850 gns.

3.0 (2m 5f ch) 1, GROCKLE (P Barton, 6-1); 2, Perhaps Lucky (C Brown 100-30 jt-fav); 3, Fer-Kil (P Croucher, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 jt-fav Ivacop (4th), 7-2 Scots Noggar (5th), 12 Fra Mau (PU), Maggie Dee, 33 Brackley, 50 Arctic Mariner (6th), Call The Guards (Fell), Great Hays (PU), Cleavill Point (PU), Gilded Gamble (PU), My Always. 14 ran. 1½l, 5l, ½l, 5l, 2l. D Barons at Kingsbridge. TOTE: £5.30; £1.60, £1.60, £4.00. DF: £13.70. CSF: £25.65.

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, KILSYTH (P Croucher, 14-1); 2, Saratino (D Mustow, 7-2); 3, French Polly (S Earle, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Damper, 6 Shout (5th), 13-2 Glen Road, 14 Cantabile (UR), 20 Hever (6th), 25 Bullring (Fell & Destroyed), Shannie, 33 Buffoon (4th), 40 Lucky Mistake, Ballyseedy Hero, Gypsey Lea, Idson Lass. 15 ran. 6l, 8l, 2l, sh-hd, 1½l. D Burchell at Ebbw Vale. TOTE: £15.10; £5.40, £2.30, £2.70. DF: £97.60. CSF: £61.50. TRICAST: £956.29. PLACEPOT: £50.40.

Wetherby

Going: soft

12.45 (2m hdle). 1, THE BEGINNING (C Grant, 6-1); 2, Rampant (J Hansen, 16-1); 3, Leswell (P Tuck, 16-1). Also ran: 4-5 fav Not Easy (4th), 6 Taucer (P.U), 8 All The Queens Men (FELL), 10 Little Ginger (6th), 25 Noble Legend (5th). Heavenly Princess 9 ran. NR: No Flake, Generous Heart 10l, 2½l, 20l, 8l, 12l, M T Bowker at Cumbria. TOTE: £5.90, £1.30, £8.00, £3.60. DF: £143.30. C.S.F. £84.14. Tricast: £1,24.93. Bought in 3,100 gns.

1.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, SWIFT ALBANY (Mandy Harrison, 8-1); 2, VICTORY PRIZE (D Leadbitter, 8-4); 3, SPRING CHANCELLOR (A Merrigan, 8-4). Also ran: 7-4 fav Poynt Pass (4th). 4 ran. 4l, 12l, dist R Robinson at Scarborough. TOTE: £0.50; £7.80. C.S.F. £22.82.

1.45 (3m ch) 1, JOCKAMBEL (T G Dun, 3-1 fav); 2, Zamandra (R O'Leary, 9-2); 3, Inkling (S Youlden, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Cornering (4th), 15-2 Antiguan Moon, 8 Palm Cross, 10 The Last Prince, 14 Braeman (UR), 20 Caldwell Case, Run A Mile (fell), 33 Fort Nelson (fell). 50 Little Midge (5th). Woodburgh (6th), Garnewood (fell), Auchencruive, Misty Spirit. 16 ran. NR: Ballywell. 7l, 1½l, 1½, 30l, 15l. D M Thomson at Greenlaw. TOTE: £4.20; £1.80, £2.00, £5.00. DF: £12.20. C.S.F. £17.33.

2.20 (2m hdle) 1, LANHYDROCK (R Forsyth, 7-2 fav), 2, Worling-Fearl (K Doolan, 9-2); 3, River Linnet (P A Charlton, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Miami Holiday, 10 Campus Boy (5th), Mohar (PU), Qualitair Princess, 14 Savoir Vivre, Secret Walk (6th), 14 River Luna, 20 Helen's Choice, Pentland Beauty (4th), Smart Jack, Squires Gold (PU), 25 Atkinson, Blackwell Boy, 33 Mahogany Hall, Quarryman, Taberna Lord, 50 Drumsport (PU), Yaliskari, Dubavarna, Little Newington, Miss Jay Cee. 24 ran.R: Fast Forward. 4l, 20l, 10l, 8l, 5l. M J Camacho at Malton. TOTE: £4.70; £2.10, £1.80, £2.80. DF: £7.00. C.S.F. £23.45.

2.50 (2m ch) 1, TIERENEE (Mr P J Dun, 11-4); 2, Starlight Lad (P Tuck 6-1); 3, Fair Babu (Mr L Kirkby, 11-4). Also ran: 11-8fav Villierstown (fell) 8-2 Tom Sawyer (4th) 5 ran Nr: Orp Baltic 3l 12l. W A Stephenson at Bishop Auckland. Tote.- £2.50; £1.40, £3.00. DF £10.40 C.S.F. £17.46.

3.25 (2m hdle) 1, GREEN GORSE (C Hawkins, 10-1); 2, Don't Annoy Me b g Marago-Embarrassed (Europrint Promotions Ltd) 4 10 12 (Mr R J Beggan, 16-1); 3, Pallas Prince b g Pitpan-Famous Lady (D Ryan) 7 10 12 (G Bradley, 11-8 fav). Also ran: 8 Broadmans Coronet (5th) Ribbons of Blue Roman Dusk 10 Phoenix Gold Keycorn 12 Bucklow Hill 14 Verbarium (4th) 20 Lucky Fen Valiant Vision 25 Pay Zone 33 Ascenbar (pulled up) Bishop's Royal Esteem Lost Land (pulled up) Marshall Red Rotherleigh Seatell (6th) Whitley Burn Jarall Karmelanna Splash Tax Code 25 ran. 1½l 1l, 7l, 3l, 2l. N. Crump at Middleham. Tote: £9.60; £1.70, £3.80, £1.50. DF: £101.10. CSF: £168.71.
Placepot £435.35 to a 50p unit.

Law Report November 28 1984 House of Lords

Justices liable to defendant for acting outside jurisdiction

In re McC (a Minor)

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Elwyn-Jones, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Templeman

[Speeches sold November 22]

Justices were acting outside or in excess of their jurisdiction in passing a first custodial sentence upon an unrepresented defendant who was not informed of his right to legal aid and they were therefore liable to the defendant in a civil action for damages.

The House of Lords so held, dismissing an appeal by three justices sitting at Belfast Juvenile Court on August 31, 1978, from a decision of the Court of Appeal of Northern Ireland (Lord Lowry, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Jones and Lord Justice O'Donnell) on December 21, 1983, who allowed an appeal by the defendant, a minor, from a judgment on June 29, 1983 of Mr Justice Hutton who held on a preliminary point of law that the defendant had no cause of action against the justices for the making of an order that the defendant be sent to a training school and his detention thereunder.

Mr W.A. Campbell, QC, Mr Patrick Coghlin and Miss C.R. Trimble (all of the Northern Ireland Bar) for the justices; Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, and Mr Timothy Ferriss (both of the Northern Ireland Bar) for the defendant.

LORD KEITH agreed with the opinion of Lord Bridge save that he left open the question whether the liability of justices for acts done within their jurisdiction but with malice and without probable cause should be treated as having fallen into desuetude.

Lord Elwyn-Jones agreed with Lord Bridge.

LORD BRIDGE said that on December 5, 1977 the defendant pleaded guilty before the juvenile court to an offence of having in his possession four car keys for use in connexion with theft.

On January 23, 1978, when he was just 14 years of age he was ordered to attend the attendance centre at Mildfield College of Technology on January 28 and subsequently at times to be fixed by the officer in charge of the centre.

On July 6, 1978 the defendant again appeared before the same court charged with failing to attend to do so. After further adjournments he was ordered on August 31, 1978 to be sent to St Patrick's Training School, Belfast, where he was detained.

In due course the defendant applied to the Divisional Court in Northern Ireland for an order of *certiorari* to quash the training school order. He relied on article 15(1) of the Treatment of Offenders (Northern Ireland) Order (SI 1976 No 226 (NI 4)) which provided: "A magistrates' court on summary conviction... shall not pass a sentence of imprisonment, borstal training or detention in a young offenders centre on a person who is not legally represented... and has not previously been sentenced to that punishment by a court in any part of the United Kingdom unless either (a) he applied for legal aid and the application was refused on the ground that it did not appear his means were such that he required assistance; or (b) having been informed of his right to apply for legal aid and had the opportunity to do so, he refused or failed to apply."

It was common ground that the training school order was a "sentence of... detention in a young offenders centre" within the meaning of that article. The defendant had never been sentenced to that punishment. In the proceedings before the juvenile court he was not legally represented and he had never applied for legal aid.

Before the Divisional Court there were conflicting affidavits as to whether the defendant had ever been informed of his right so to apply. The Divisional Court accepted the evidence of the clerk of the court that the defendant had been so informed at the first hearing which led to the making of the attendance centre order but it was common ground that he had not been informed of that right again before the making of the training school order.

The Divisional Court held that article 15(1) of the 1976 Order was not satisfied on the ground that the proceedings for breach of the attendance centre order, which led to the making of the training school order were separate and distinct from those which preceded and led to the making of the attendance centre order; accordingly the training school order could not *lawfully be made as the defendant* had not been again informed of his right to apply for legal aid in the course of the later proceedings and the training school order was quashed.

On March 12, 1980 the defendant issued a writ in an action for damages for false imprisonment, reciting the relevant history of the proceedings which led to the making of the training school order.

The defence did not plead that the defendant was informed of his right to apply for legal aid and therefore that issue did not arise on the pleadings.

On July 28, 1982 an order was made by consent for the determination as a preliminary issue of law of the question whether on the facts pleaded any action would lie against the justices.

That in turn depended on whether the justices in making the training school order "acted without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction" within the meaning of section 15 of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Act 1964, re-enacted as article 5, of the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order (SI 1981 No 1675 (NI 26)).

Section 15 of the 1964 Act provided: "No action shall succeed against any person by reason of any matter arising in the execution or purported execution of his office of resident magistrate or justice of the peace, unless the court before which the action is brought is satisfied that he acted without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction."

Considered in isolation the implication of that section seemed clearly to be that, if somebody suffered an actionable wrong pursuant to an order made by justices acting as such, it was a complete defence that they had acted within their jurisdiction but no defence if they acted "without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction."

It followed that defendant's detention pursuant to the justices' order would establish a cause of action if, but only if, that order was made "without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction".

There were many words in common usage in the law which had no precise or constant meaning.

But few had been used with so many different shades of meaning in different contexts or had so freely acquired new meanings with the development of the law as the word "jurisdiction". Their Lordships' task was to try to discern a sensible line to be drawn somewhere within that wide spectrum, to determine whether or not the justices were acting within their jurisdiction.

The language of section 15 of the 1964 Act abolished the old common law "action on the case as for a tort" against a justice in respect of anything done by him maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause within his jurisdiction.

It was not open to the draftsman of the Justices of the Peace Act 1979 to take the same course in England. In the process of consolidation (there being no relevant Law Commission recommendation) he was constrained to reproduce the previous statutory provisions, which were purely procedural in character, but was entitled by using the opening words "If apart from this section any action lies..." to manifest his doubt as to the survival of the old common law cause of action.

No question of malice, either within or without the jurisdiction arose in the present appeal. But when the whole subject of justices' liability arising out of the execution or purported execution of their office was under consideration by the House of Lords for the first time, it required comment even though that aspect of the subject had not been argued.

It was, of course, clear that the holder of any judicial office who acted in bad faith, doing what he *knew he had* no power to do, was liable in damages.

If the Lord Chief Justice himself, on the acquittal of a defendant charged with a criminal offence were to say, "that is a perverse verdict" and thereupon proceeded to pass a sentence of imprisonment, he could be sued for trespass.

But where *a judge of a court of* record acted maliciously and contrary to good faith while acting within his jurisdiction, as Lord Esher, Master of the Rolls, said in *Anderson v Gorrie* ([1895] 1 QB 668, 670) "By the common law of England it is the law that no such action will lie".

The principle underlying that rule was clear. If one judge in 1,000 acted dishonestly within his jurisdiction to the detriment of a party before him, it was less harmful to the health of society to leave that party without a remedy than that 999 honest judges should be harassed by vexatious litigation alleging malice in the exercise of their proper jurisdiction.

If the old common law rule was different in relation to justices of the peace, it probably had its origins in society's view of the justice, reflected in Shakespeare's plays, as an ignorant buffoon. But it clearly had no application whatever in today's world either to stipendary magistrates or to lay benches.

The former were competent professional judges, the latter citizens from all walks of life, chosen for their intelligence and integrity, required to undergo some training before they sat and were advised by legally qualified clerks.

They gave unstinting voluntary service to the community and conducted the major part of the criminal business of the courts. Without them the system of criminal justice in this country would grind to a halt.

In those circumstances it seemed a ludicrous anachronism that, while a judge sued for an act within his jurisdiction alleged to have been done maliciously was entitled to have the proceedings dismissed *in limine*, a magistrate in the like case should have to go to trial to defend himself against the accusation of malice.

It followed that, in his Lordship's opinion, the old common law "action on the case as for a tort" against justices acting within their jurisdiction maliciously and without reasonable and probable cause no longer lay.

By contrast, it was clear that in section 15 of the 1964 Act and section 45 of the 1979 Act the old common law rule that justices were civilly liable for actionable wrongs suffered by citizens pursuant to orders made without jurisdiction survived.

Thus both courts below were right to reject the argument based on the judgment of Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, in *Sirros v Moore* ([1975] QB 118), which sought to *equate the immunity from suit* of those purporting to exercise the limited jurisdiction of inferior courts, including justices, with that of judges of the superior courts.

Whatever the juridical basis for the distinction between superior and inferior courts in that regard, and however anomalous it seemed, the distinction unquestionably remained part of the law affecting justices and would continue to do so as long as the language of section 15 of the 1964 Act and section 45 of the 1979 Act remained in legislative force in the jurisdictions of Northern Ireland and England respectively.

The provisions introduced in 1964 to indemnify justices against personal liability in appropriate circumstances had two significant consequences.

First, they contemplated that a justice might be liable for having acted without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction even though he was in no way blameworthy, and the statutory phrase must be so construed as to cover that possibility.

Second, it went far to meet Lord Denning's concern expressed in the *Sirros* case that "Each should be protected from liability to damages when he is acting judicially... should be able to do his work in complete independence and free from fear... should not have to turn the pages of his book with trembling fingers, asking himself: 'If I do this shall I be liable in damages?'"

Lord Lowry, giving the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the present case took the view that the fact of the training school order having been quashed by *certiorari* was conclusive that it was made "without jurisdiction or in excess of jurisdiction".

However, the case of *Johnson v Meldon* ((1891) 30 LR Ir 15) showed that the quashing of an order or decision by *certiorari* for want of jurisdiction could not be conclusive against the justices on the issue of their civil liability, at all events where they erred, even by misdirecting themselves, in deciding some collateral issue which it was necessary for them to decide in order to determine whether they had jurisdiction to proceed in the matter.

The justices would of course be acting without jurisdiction if, in the course of hearing a case within their jurisdiction they were guilty of an obvious irregularity of procedure, as for example if one justice absented himself for part of the hearing and relied on another to tell him what had happened during his absence, or of the rules of natural justice, as for example if the justices refused to allow the defendant to give evidence.

But more subtle cases in which it might successfully be contended in judicial review proceedings that a conviction was vitiated on some narrow technical ground involving a procedural irregularity or even breach of the rules of natural justice, should be left for determination if and when they arose.

Such convictions, if followed by a potential trespass to person or goods would be necessarily expose the justices to liability in damages.

Since the present case was the first in which their Lordships' House had considered justices' liability in damages for acts done in execution or purported execution of their office, it was appropriate to examine the principles on which the liability could be founded on want of jurisdiction invalidating the proceedings *ab initio* or alternatively, given initial jurisdiction, on ouster of jurisdiction during a trial.

The present case arose in a narrower and in some sense distinct field. There was no question but that the justices had jurisdiction to entertain the proceedings against the defendant.

The only defect relied on to deprive the justices of jurisdiction to make the training school order was the failure in those proceedings (considered as distinct from the earlier proceedings which led to the making of the attendance centre order) to inform the defendant of his right to apply for legal aid as they were required to do by article 15 of the 1976 Order.

The authorities established the clear principle that justices, though they had "jurisdiction of the cause" and conducted the trial impeccably, might nevertheless be liable in damages on the ground of acting in excess of jurisdiction if their conviction of the defendant before them or other determination of the complaint did not provide a proper foundation in law for the sentence imposed on him or order made against him and in pursuance of the sentence or order he was imprisoned or his goods were seized.

It could not be said that the justices' omission to inform the defendant of his right to apply for legal aid was a mere procedural irregularity. The language of article 15(1) of the 1976 Order prohibited in the clearest terms the imposition of any of the custodial sentences mentioned unless one or other of the conditions referred to in paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) had been satisfied.

Section 21(1) of the Powers of Criminal Courts Act 1973 had the same effect in England.

Parliament plainly attached importance to ensuring that none of those custodial sentences should be imposed for the first time on a defendant not legally represented unless the defendant's lack of representation was of his own choice.

The philosophy underlying the provision must be that no one should be liable to a first sentence of imprisonment, borstal training or detention unless he had had the opportunity of having his case in mitigation presented to the court in the best possible light.

For an inarticulate defendant, as so many were, such presentation might be crucial to his liberty. It was impossible to say in this, or any other case that, if the requirements of article 15(1) had been satisfied, it would have made no difference to the result.

The fulfilment of that statutory condition precendent to the imposition of such a sentence as the justices passed on the defendant was no less essential to support their jurisdiction to pass such a sentence than, for example, in the case of a sentence of immediate imprisonment, a prior conviction of an offence for which a sentence of imprisonment could lawfully be passed.

There was an analogy here between fulfilment of that statutory condition precedent, necessary to give justices jurisdiction to pass an otherwise appropriate sentence and the fulfilment, at an earlier stage, of the statutory condition precedent, where applicable, requiring the defendant to be informed of his right to elect jury trial which was necessary to give the justices "jurisdiction of the cause" that is, to try the case summarily. In neither case could omission to fulfill the condition precedent be considered a mere procedural irregularity.

LORD BRANDON agreed with Lord Bridge upon the question of the civil liability of justices for acts done without or in excess of jurisdiction and agreed with the analysis of the relevant law.

However, upon the further question of the common law liability of justices for acts done within their jurisdiction but with malice and without reasonable cause, his Lordship agreed that such liability was obsolete so far as Northern Ireland was concerned but preferred to reserve his opinion upon that question in relation to England.

Lord Templeman delivered a speech agreeing with Lord Bridge.

Solicitors: Crown Solicitor, Belfast; Mr Francis Keenan, Belfast.

Innocent misrepresentation

Gee v British Broadcasting Corporation and Others
Gee v Blackwood
Gee v Mitchell

Lord Justice Croom-Johnson said, on November 26, that he wished to make it clear that in his judgment of November 20 (*The Times* November 26) the misrepresentation referred to during the cross-examination of the plaintiff was in the heat of the moment and unintentional; it was not a wish to misrepresent but it created the wrong impression to the jury.

His Lordship added that in coming to his decision to discharge the jury and to try the case alone, the amount and contents of the documents had weighed very heavily with him.

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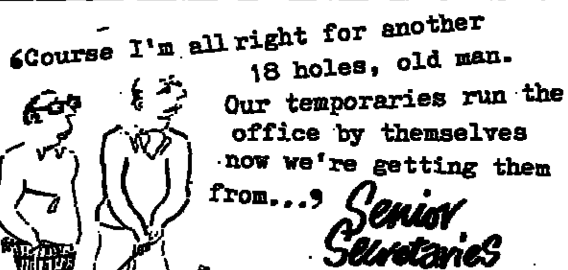
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Work from the lovely home of a charming man involved in buying and *selling racehorses, managing stallions* and advising on finance. As one of two secretaries you will help run the *office,* deal with clients from around the world, prepare for and possibly attend sales in addition to general secretarial work. Skills of 90/60, a minimum of three years experience and a sense of humour necessary. Based in SW3.

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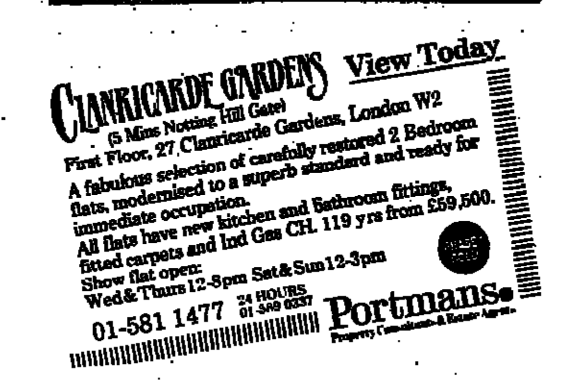
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Property North of the Thames



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Something to set a store on – if you retire early

By Christopher Warman
Property correspondent

The English may no longer be a nation of shopkeepers, but an increasing number of people is interested in combining a home, with a small business, particularly in the more attractive villages in the country.

Over the last decade or two, the rise of the supermarket has been accompanied by the decline of the village stores, a trend which Christie and Co, agents with offices across the country, have been watching closely. Nigel Jones, from their Bristol office, says that in recent years village stores have not been popular, but that is changing.

He adds: "Though the number of small shops has fallen dramatically over the last 10 years, it seems that much of the weeding-out has been done. What is left of the grocery business in private hands is stronger, fitter, healthier and able to trade profitably and operated with minimum overheads. They will now provide owners with a comfortable living for years to come".

People are using supermarkets for their main stocking-up, but are beginning to realize the benefits of a local store, and these small stores are fulfilling a different need.

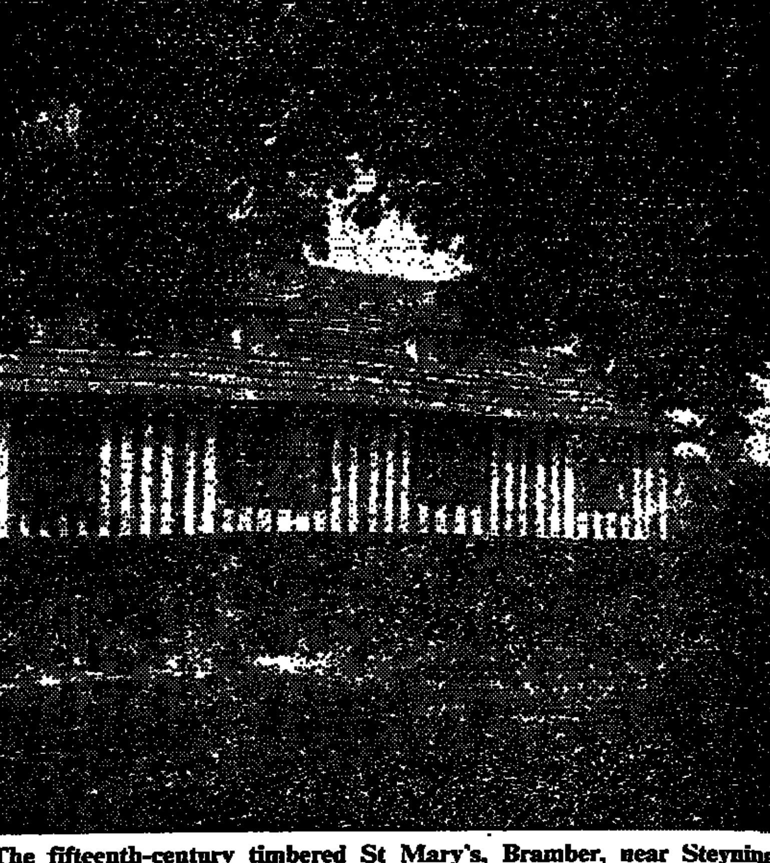
It is undoubtedly pleasant to be welcomed into a shop by a shopkeeper known to the customer. The village shop is also useful for its more-flexible opening hours, especially when the supermarket is too far away.

For the owner, it provides a business, a home and a way of life. According to Mr Jones, there is a continuing recruitment to the ranks of village shopkeepers from the forces and the police. They have a pension and have saved usually some capital, which enables them to buy their way in and also – with the cushion of a pension – survive comfortably without a very high salary.

In most cases, it is difficult to borrow large amounts of money to finance the purchase because the returns are comparatively small, so most people coming into the new way of life pay cash. Many of them now are men and women deciding to leave the rat race and settle for the gentler, but still hard-working, village life.

The same standard of living can be maintained from a much lower income, with many of the costs covered by the business. The great benefit is that many of these village stores are fine properties to live in.

For someone buying a business, a little store in a town, village or even in a city's outskirts, has its attractions. As Christie's point out, why would anybody want to commute to a busy city every day when you can go into business on your own? It seems that more people are coming to share that view, and looking for a reasonable life style and a business in the community.



The fifteenth-century timbered St Mary's, Bramber, near Steyning, Sussex, on sale at over £150,000, which Strutt and Parker believe could combine an antiques or picture business with the pleasure of the house

They have recently sold a general stores at Long Ashton, near Bristol, with a four-bedroom house and a garden, for £65,000, and a village post office-stores in a modernized cottage in a Cotswold village for £75,000.

Among the selection on the books is a post office-store in a village near Coleford in the Forest of Dean. It carried a P.O. salary of £8,635 and shop sales of stationery and greetings cards. It is a business, say Christie's, which would suit a couple looking for a quiet way of life or for a wife to run while her husband continued his work (or vice versa of course). The income from the shop covers the overheads, leaving the Post Office salary as profit.

The modernized, detached, three-bedroom accommodation has a big garden and is for sale at £74,500.

In Painswick, a pretty Cotswold town, a newsagency in the centre of this tourist town is for sale at £160,000. It is a thriving business, with takings of £3,250 a week and profits of £10,000 and more. The family house in Cotswold stone has five bedrooms and though it has been modernized, retains original features.

A village post office-stores near Bristol is also for sale through Christie's, who are asking £95,000 for a six-bedroom house, modernized, with a garden, and the shop, which has a £131,000-a-year turnover. In addition, there is the P.O. salary of over £7,000. The agents describe it as a good business for a husband and wife to run, yielding profits of more than £14,000.

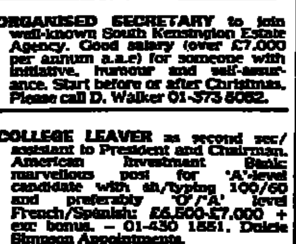
Across the Cotswolds at Woodstock, a fine building built in about 1780, and standing almost opposite the gates of Blenheim Palace, provides a four-bedroom house and a business combining a shop, tea room and guest rooms. The Blenheim was mentioned in Egon Ronay's 1984 *Just a Bite*, and is for sale at about £160,000 through Vernon and Son's Woodstock office.

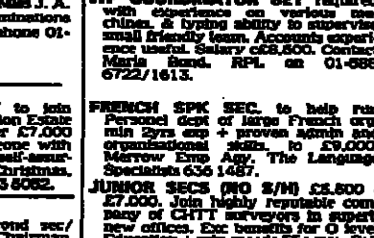
Finally, Strutt and Parker's Lewes, Sussex, office is selling a Grade 1 listed fifteenth-century house which gives the owners a number of alternatives for business.

St Mary's, Bramber, near Steyning, housed until recently a butterfly museum. The timber-framed house has three reception rooms, five bedrooms, a three-bedroom flat and a display room which was the Victorian music room addition: ideal, say Strutt and Parker, for antiques or pictures. Asking price over £150,000.

also on page 26

Super Secs





هكذا من الأصل

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

House with honeymoon memories

■ Sir Austen Chamberlain, when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the early 1900s, spent his honeymoom at Wormbridge House, Wormbridge, in the Herefordshire countryside, largely because it was owned by his private parliamentary secretary, Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Clive, MP for South Herefordshire. Clive, grandfather of the vendor, planted an oak tree to commemorate the visit and it is one of the fine trees in the 2½ acre grounds of the house, which is for sale through Savills' Hereford office - offers over £95,000.

The Georgian house has a reception hall, drawing room dining room and six bedrooms, many with views towards the Black Mountains, with a courtyard and stabling.

■ **Eashing House, a single-storey contemporary house at Eashing near Godalming, Surrey, is for sale through Hampton and Sons' Guilford office; guide price £250,000. The house, with two acres, has four bedrooms, a drawing/dining room and a centrally sited winter garden.**

Country conversion

■ Compton Verney, the eighteenth-century, semi-derelict Grade I listed mansion and 117-acre estate near Stratford-upon-Avon, owned by the late Harry Ellard, has been sold at auction for £515,000 by the joint agents Bigwood and Bewlay and Debenham Tewson and Chinnocks. When it came up for sale earlier in the year it had a guide price of around £250,000, but the interest led to an auction, and it was finally bought by Period and Country Houses Ltd of London, who specialize in restoration and conversion.

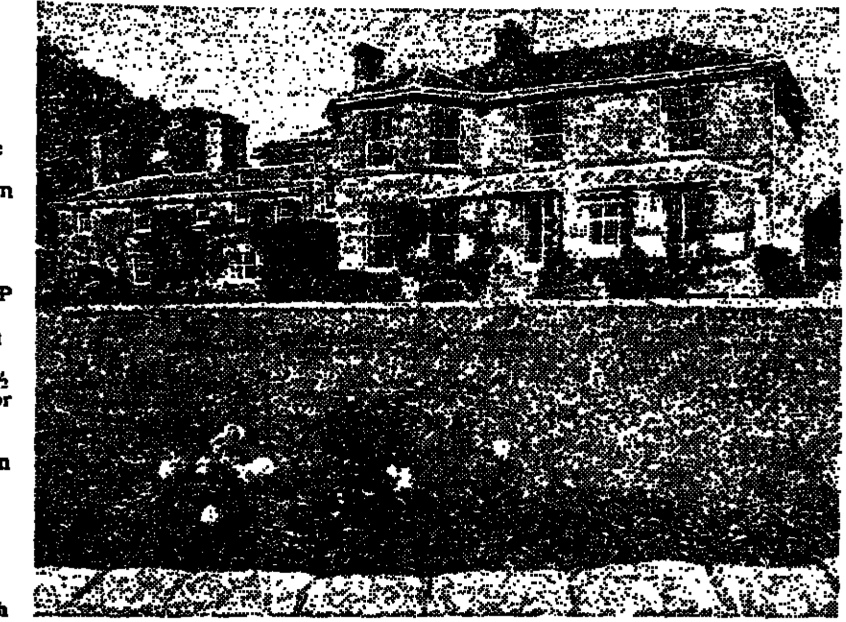
Subject to planning permission, it is planned to convert it into three large houses, one in each Adam wing and the third in the section designed by Vanbrugh. Christopher Buxton, managing director, expects the restoration work to cost at least £1 million.

■ **Shepherds Green, at Mount Pleasant, Sway, in the New Forest, a converted cottage with garden and paddocks of 2½ acres, five bedrooms and three reception rooms, is for sale through Jackson and Jackson of Lymington, who are asking £135,000 for the property which was originally two cottages.**

Twelfth-century manor

■ Wanborough Manor, Hog's Back, Guildford, Surrey, a manor house dating from the twelfth century, is for sale through Gasgoigne-Pees of Guildford, who are seeking around £200,000. The Grade II listed house, mentioned in the Domesday Book, was later given to the Earl of Southampton by Henry VII, and during the Second World War was used as the headquarters of the SOE, where Violette Szabo GC and others were trained.

With grounds of about one acre, the house has three reception rooms, five bedrooms, with two bathrooms, and six further rooms on the attic floor.



Broomland, Langton Green, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, dates from regency times. It was the home of Thomas Bingham-Richards, a merchant who in 1800 left Naples on Nelson's ship ahead of the French advance, having met there Sir William and Lady Hamilton. The house, with about 24 acres, is being sold by Ibbett Mosely Card and Co., who are seeking offers around £500,000. It has four reception rooms, a principal bedroom suite with six further bedrooms, with two three-bedroom cottages on the estate, a tennis court and stabling

Will the public like timber's new look ?

The fact that a campaign was launched last week to try to persuade people that timber-frame houses are as safe and valuable as those made of brick is a recognition that this method of housebuilding has suffered badly in the last two years from bad publicity.

There have been too many stories in newspapers to ignore, and when television took up the matter, culminating with the *World in Action* programme in June 1983, the case against timber-frames went almost by default. Builders, particularly Barratt, who had been increasing their output of such housing throughout the country, suffered and soon took the commercial way out by reducing their numbers of timber-frame houses.

From a peak of 25 per cent as a proportion of private housing starts in Britain by the end of 1982, timber framed housing fell to 20 per cent by the end of 1983 and to 12 per cent with the latest figures from the National House-building Council.

In England, the figure has gone from 24 per cent to 11 per cent, while in Scotland, where this method has been more popular, the proportion has dropped from 51 per cent to 37 per cent.

The new campaign is the work of a consortium of firms supplying goods to timber frame builders, not the builders themselves, who are at present keeping quiet about the whole embarrassing business. They are expecting to spend £250,000 in the first year in advertising and publicity to try to allay the fears of the public, which has apparently taken the bad news as gospel and walked away from timber-framed houses.

The first thing the campaign has done is to change the name of the product, calling it timber and brick rather than timber-frame, and claiming that this is a more accurate description. So it is, since a timber frame house is constructed of timber and brick and contains only 20 per cent more timber than a "traditional" brick and block house. It nevertheless indicated a lack of confidence in public appreciation.

Statistics can prove anything, but the fact is that since 1965 2½ million houses, including 150,000 timber-frame houses, have been built which are covered by the NHBC's 10-year warranty scheme. Claims for defects have been paid on 20,000 of them, only 24 involving specific timber-frame defects.

The argument really revolves around how well timber-frame houses are built. If they are built well, they will not suffer from condensation which could rot the wood, and if that is the case the claims that timber framed houses are better insulated, and more comfortable, could well be justified.

Research of all sorts is busily going on to assess timber-frame construction in Britain. Many householders live in timber-frame homes without knowing it, and they are quite happy. Perhaps that is the key.

Overseas Property

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South of the Thames

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J. W. PAPI, Liquidator.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS and IN MEMORIAM £4.00 a line (minimum 3 lines)

Announcements authenticated by the name and permanent address of the sender, may be sent to:

THE TIMES
200 Gray's Inn Road
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or telephoned (by telephone subscribers only) to: 01-837 3311 or 01-837 3333. Funeral Directors' Direct Lines: 01-278 9166 or 01-278 9167.

Announcements can be received by telephone between 9.00am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday, on Saturday between 9.00am and 12.00noon. (837 3311 only). For publication the following day, phone by 1.30pm.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES, WEDDINGS, etc on Court and Social Page. £6 a line.

Court and Social Page announcements can not be accepted by telephone. Enquiries to: 01-837 1234 Ex 7714.

Most other classified advertisements can be accepted by telephone. The deadline is 5.00pm 2 days prior to publication (i.e. 5.00 pm Monday for Wednesday). Should you wish to send an advertisement in writing please include your daytime 'phone number.

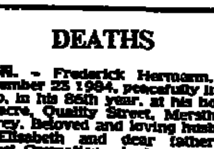
THY GOD HATH commanded thy strength: strengthen, O God, that which thou hast wrought for us. Psalm 68: 28

BIRTHS

BACKHOUSE. – On 17th November, to Sarah (nee Barber) and David, a daughter, Rosalind Christina, sister for Katie and Theo.

BOWEN – On November 24th at West Middlesex Hospital to Briony (Nee Bennison) and Robert a daughter Vanessa.

CRAWLEY – On November 23 at The Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, to Charlotte (née Miller) and Henry, a beautiful daughter, Florence Cecilia.



DEATHS

SIMON. – Frederick Hermann, on November 25 1984, peacefully in his sleep, in his 86th year, at his home, Sunacre, Quality Street, Merstham, Surrey. Beloved and loving husband of Elisabeth and dear father of Ernest. Cremation private.

WETHERELL. – On November 24th, June Pamela at her home in Chelsea. Funeral service at the Chelsea Old Church, at 11am on Tuesday, December 4th, followed by cremation to be attended by family only. If desired, donations to The Royal Marsden Hospital, Cancer Fund.

WIXCEY – On November 24th, John Herbert, suddenly at his home, 175 Gilbert Road, Cambridge, aged 70. Much loved husband of Gladys and father to Amanda and Charles. Funeral service, Monday 3rd December at Emmanuel united reformed Church, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, 12.45, followed by a private family service at Cambridge Crematorium. No flowers please, but donations if desired, to The British Heart Foundation, 102 Gloucester Place, London, W1H 4DU.

YOUNG – Lt.-Col. Leslie Garrick, late of 2/9th Gurkha Rifles. Suddenly at home at Great Barugh, N. Yorks, on 26th November. Beloved husband of Anne and much loved and loving father of Olivia and Charles. At his request, private family Cremation at Scarborough.

IN MEMORIAM

GORST, – Elliot Gorst, QC, in very loving memory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PEARSON, STANLEY GORDON PEARSON late of Montreal Farm, Moor Row, Cleator Moor, Cumbria, died in Hensingham, Cumbria on August 7, 1981. (Estate about £120,000).

PRESTON, MINNIE PRESTON, spinster, late of 38 Bessborough Street, Westminster, London SW1 died there on January 18, 1982. (Estate about £8,600).

WILKES, ALICE NORAH WILKES, otherwise Ruby Alice Norah Wilkes ...

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As a direct result of the recent collapse of various travel organisations travellers are advised not to book any overseas flights until they have ascertained the financial security offered by the travel company or airline concerned. An excellent scheme is being organised by SUNWORLD TRAVEL, Epsom. For a nominal fee of £5 this company provides each client upon booking with a Flight Indemnity Bond whereby the insurers guarantee the client an instant repayment of up to £2,000 in the unlikely event of the collapse of either Sunworld or of any airline upon which they book a client. This new style of Bonding is exclusive to Sunworld: it is a positive move in the direction of providing the modern day traveller with complete financial security.

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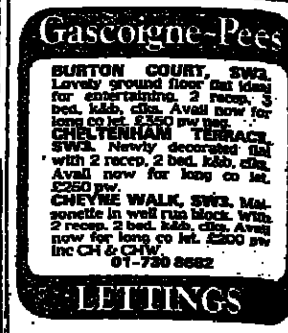
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Entertainments

THEATRES

also on page 27

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CINEMAS

EXHIBITIONS

ART GALLERIES

also on page 24

هكذا من الأصل

Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

.00 **Ceefax AM.**

.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours and at 8.59; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18. *Plus Mike Smith with the new* Top Twenty.

.00 **Lyn Marshall's Everyday Yoga.** Lesson 11: the Knee and Thigh Stretch and Ankle Rotations (r) **9.10 The Dorsetmen.** Dennis Skillicorn, in the first of six programmes *about people who live and* work in Dorset, meets the men who work on the Isle of Portland **9.40 Ceefax 10.30 Play School (r).**

50 **Gharbar.** This week's edition of the magazine programme for Asian women includes a discussion on adoption and fostering **11.15 Ceefax.**

30 **News After Noon** with Richard Whitmore and Frances Coverdale. The weather *prospects come from Bill* Giles. **12.57** Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles).

.00 **Pebble Mill at One** *includes* Prue Leith's Good Looking Cooking series **1.45 Gran (r) 1.50 Stop-Go! (r).**

00 **Championship Snooker.** The quarter final matches of the Coral United Kingdom Championship, *introduced by* David Vine from the Guild Hall, Preston **3.48** Regional news (not London).

50 **Play School,** presented by Ben Thomas **4.10 Bananaman 4.15 Jackanory.** Jane Asher reads part three of Frances Hodgson Burnett's A Little Princess **4.30 Godzilla.** Cartoon adventures of a prehistoric *leviathan* **4.50 John Craven's Newsround.**

30 **The Box of Delights.** Part two of the excellent six-episode dramatisation of John Masefield's novel (Ceefax).

25 **The Good Life.** Comedy series *starring Richard Briers* and Felicity Kendall as the suburban self-sufficients (r) **5.58** Weather.

30 **News** with Nicholas Witchell *and Jeremy Paxman.*

30 **London Plus.**

55 ***I've Got a Secret.*** Jan Leeming, Chris Kelly, Sally James and Derek Jameson have to guess the secrets of guests who include Barry *Cryer and Billy J Kramer.*

30 **Sharon and Elsie.** Elsie's plans of spending a romantic evening with her husband go awry and she ends up cooking chips for Sharon who believes she is being followed (r).

.00 **Dallas.** *Murder most foul* is attempted tonight but the would-be killer is foiled in the attempt. Meanwhile, Lucy takes a job as a waitress at the *cafe where her mother worked* and a girl claiming to be Jock's niece appears (Ceefax).

45 **Points of View.** Barry Took dips into the BBC's postbag.

00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.

05 **News** with John Humphrys.

.30 **In at the Deep End.** The final programme of the series and Chris Serle sets his sights on *becoming an auctioneer* at Sotheby's. To this end he seeks advice in Europe and North America (Ceefax).

.20 **Sportsnight** introduced by Harry Carpenter. *There is* action in the quarter-finals of the Coral United Kingdom Snooker Championship; highlights from last night's bouts between Kaylor *and* Sibson and Bruno and Brown; a report from Sweden on how they produce their top tennis players; and news of tonight's *Uefa Cup matches.*

.10 **News** headlines and weather.

TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with *Gordon Honeycombe* at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 6.39 and 7.37; guest, George Melly, from 6.45; exercises at 6.46 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 6.51; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; Tina Turner pop video at 7.54; star *romance* at 8.15; Fred Titmus remembers at 8.47; Roddy Llewellyn's gardening advice at 9.06.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 Thames news headlines. **9.30** For Schools: Craft, design and technology. **9.47** Energy sources and energy chains. **10.04** Magnetochemistry. **10.21** Television in Holland. **10.48** The control of flooding *in the Los Angeles area.* **11.10** A baker at work. **11.22** A cartoon version of the Christmas story. **11.39** War is declared.

12.00 **Rod, Jane and Freddy** with a musical story about Tricky Tommy. **12.10 Our Backyard.** *Peter is cheered up by a big* show. **12.30 The Sullivans.** Drama serial about an Australian family during the Second World War.

1.00 **News at One** *with* Leonard Parkin. **1.20** Thames news from Robin Houston. **1.30 A Country Practice.** *Medical* drama series set in the Australian outback. **2.30 Farmhouse Kitchen.** Everyday Dinners prepared by Grace *Mulligan and Angela Mottram.*

3.00 **Take the High Road. 3.25** Thames news headlines. **3.30 Sons and Daughters.** Passion and high finance among the *Hamilton and Palmer families.*

4.00 **Rod, Jane and Freddy.** A repeat of the programme shown at noon. **4.15 Wil Cwac Cwac.** Adventures of a *naughty duck.* **4.20 Chish 'n' Fips.** The story of two garden gnomes. **4.45 Murphy's Mob.** Serial about a group of football-mad young boys. **5.15** *Blockbusters. General* knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.

5.45 **News. 6.00** Thames news with Andrew Gardner and Tina Jenkins.

6.25 **Help!** Viv Taylor Gee with news of Dial-a-Ride, a scheme to help the disabled get out and about.

6.35 **Crossroads.**

7.00 **Name That Tune.** Fast moving *musical quiz presented* by Lionel Blair.

7.30 **Coronation Street.**

8.00 **This Is Your Life.** Eamonn Andrews springs a surprise on another unsuspecting worthy.

8.30 **Mike Yarwood in Persons.** *Comedy from* the talented impressionist.

9.00 **Travelling Man.** Lomax, in his search for his son, crosses the path of the mysterious Thomas *who is in reality an* assassin on the trail of a defector who is spilling the beans in a 'safe house' (Oracle).

10.00 **A Party Political Broadcast** on behalf of the Conservative Party.

10.05 **News** followed by Thames news headlines.

10.35 **Midweek Sport Special.** Highlights from one of tonight's *third round, first leg,* ties in the Uefa Cup, involving a British Club; plus the final stages of the Tuborg British Figure Skating *Championships.*

12.05 **World in Action: Apartheid's Back Yard.** A documentary about the conditions for the majority of black people in South Africa *who have been* dumped in the poverty-stricken 'homelands'. Filmed unofficially and in secret by John Blake and John *Smithson in the Ciskei which* became 'independent' of South Africa three years ago.

12.35 **Night Thoughts.**

Julian Curry in Oxbridge Blues (BBC 2, 9.00pm)

CHOICE

● **OXBRIDGE BLUES** (BBC 2, 9.00pm) is a double-decker tonight. Whichever play you take, the *comforting message it transmits* is that last week's fall from grace, the tiresomely talkative and excessively brittle *That Was Tory* was only temporary and Frederic Raphael's drama series is now back on course again. *He'll See You Now* explains why a psychoanalyst will not help a *woman patient decide which of her* two lovers to choose. *Similar Triangles* is about an *affaire* brought *to a head by the death of a deceived* husband. There is a common denominator of a theme, but a clever variation is played on it because in one play, sexual passion is seen as the cement that binds while in the other, it is the absence of it that performs precisely the same function.

● **BLACK HOLLYWOOD** (Channel 4, 10.05pm) *confirms what we had* long suspected: that, despite the much-vaunted breakthroughs by *performers like Poitier and Pryor,* Dandridge and Belafonte, there is still an undignified rush by black movie actors to pick up the few crumbs that fall from the white man's table. What is the point of community relations gestures by the major studios such as training *schemes for black performers if* there is no work for them at the end of it? This is a film filled with suppressed anger, and *it is* a good job that most of the opinions we glean from black actors, producers and writers are more constructive than the one delivered by the unidentified man who, branding Griffith's 1915 *Birth of a Nation* a racist film, demands that all copies of it should be burnt.

● Radio highlight: Martin Jenkins's *production of MACBETH* (Radio 3, 7.00pm) is the same one I enthusiastically recommended when it was first broadcast, on Radio 3. Denis Quilley's masterly *performance* in the title role will not surprise anybody. With a voice like his, he was born to play Macbeth. *The unexpected thrill this pro*duction gives us comes from Hannah Gordon's Lady Macbeth. She tackles a symphony-size character with chamber music technique and the result is unforgettably chilling. A word of praise, too, for Ilona Sekacz's unearthly music, sparingly used, and as creepy as any of Miss Gordon's soliloquies.

Peter Davalle

BBC 2

9.00 **Ceefax.**

9.10 **Daytime on Two:** Technical *studies – heat treatment.* **9.30** Science: hearing. **10.00** You and me with the lifeboat men. **10.15** *Maths: fractions.* **10.38** Maths: statistics. **11.00** Words and pictures. **11.17** Music: Harlequinade – a pantomime. **11.39** Tobacco – its worth to *the Exchequer and its threat to* health.

12.30 For parents of mentally handicapped children. **12.55** For learner drivers whose second language is English. **1.21** French conversation. **1.38** Steam-worked engines. **2.00** *Early postal services.* **2.18** Economic development in Brazil. **2.40** The plight of whales (Ceefax).

3.00 **The Tribal Eye.** Part three of *the series on tribal art and* David Attenborough is in West Africa examining the work commissioned by the Obas of Benin four centuries ago (r).

3.50 *Championship Snooker.* David Vine introduces quarter-final action in the Coral United Kingdom Championship.

5.25 **News** summary with subtitles.

5.30 **Willo the Wisp,** with the voices of Kenneth Williams (r).

5.35 Fast Forward. Fun and games for young people, presented by Floella Benjamin.

6.00 **The High Chaparral.** Vintage American western series (r).

6.50 **The Phil Silvers Show*** Sgt Bilko wagers all his money on one of his platoon when the annual eating competition comes round. Then he *discovers that his fancy can* only eat when he is unhappy (r).

7.15 *Cameo. A quick look at the* wildlife of the cities and suburbs (r).

7.25 **Ebony,** presented by Juliet Alexander and Vince Herbert, includes a report *on black* miners in Derbyshire; a tribute to Alex Pascall who has been presenting Radio London's Black Londoners programme for ten years; poems *from* Valerie Bloom; and music from Ruby Turner and Kora players from Senegal.

7.55 **My Music.** Frank Muir and John Amis challenge Denis Norden and Ian Wallace to a test of musical knowledge (r).

8.20 **Harry Ferguson: Inventor.** The story of the Ulsterman who invented the modern tractor.

9.00 **Oxbridge Blues: Similar Triangles.** *A play about a* three-sided relationship; followed by **He'll See You Now** starring Susan Sarandon. (see Choice).

10.05 Out of Court examines the controversial methods dealing with criminals whose offences are linked with their alcohol problem.

10.35 **A Party** *Political Broadcast* on behalf of the Conservative Party.

10.40 **Newsnight.**

11.25 **Top Gear Rally Report.** William Woollard reports from the Lombard RAC Rally *headquarters in Chester.*

11.35 **Buongiorno Italia!** Lesson 11 of the Italian conversation course (r). Ends at 12.05.

CHANNEL 4

2.30 **Film: Me and Marlborough*** (1935) starring Cicely Courtneige as a woman who dresses up as a man in order to join the Duke of *Malborough's army* at Flanders where her husband is serving. Directed by Victor Saville.

4.00 **A Plus 4.** Mavis Nicholson and *Paul Jones with a panel of* unemployed people discuss the events of the past month.

4.30 **Countdown.** John Wallace, an airway passenger services duty *controller* challenges yesterday's winner of the anagrams and mental *arithmetic competition.*

5.00 **Alice.** Mel, the diner owner, is depressed after meeting an old school chum who is happily married with a family.

5.30 **The Mary Tyler Moore Show.** Hal Baxter, the successful brother of Ted, arrives unexpectedly at the studio. Eager to impress his brother, *Ted introduces Mary as his* girlfriend. A complicated series of one-upmanship ploys ends with Mary and Rhoda making up a foursome with the two *brothers.*

6.00 **Silents Please.** Mack Sennett is the subject of his week's edition. His life and career is traced and among those who *appeared with him on the* screen and are in film clips shown are Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin, Carole Lombard and The Keystone Cops.

6.30 The Living Body. Part 11 of the 26-programme series on the inner workings of the body is the first of a two-part mini-series on an examination of *the nervous system. Narrated* by Derek Cooper and Miriam Margolyes.

7.00 **Channel Four News** with Peter Sissons includes a report by *Gavin Scott on the police* Special Branch – the subject of a Parliamentary select committee investigation.

7.50 **Comment.** The political slot *this week is taken by Frank* Dobson, the Labour MP for Holborn and St Pancras.

8.00 **Scotland's Story.** The penultimate part of the series on the history of Scotland and the Scots examines Scotland *after 1945.*

8.30 **Diverse Reports.** Britain's Coal Industry: Dead Within 50 Years? Steve Hewlett and Barbara Evans analyse the *impact of new computer* technology in the coal industry and come to the conclusion that the NUM is right in demanding that no pits should *be closed.*

9.00 **The People Show in 'Starwashed'.** Comedy with the People Show playing a keen but singularly *unsuccessful* troupe of vaudevillists touring the country's seedier clubs and backroom theatres.

10.05 **Black Hollywood.** A documentary *about black* professional entertainers' battle to stamp out the negative image of blacks. (see Choice).

11.30 **Closedown.**

Radio 4

5.55 Shipping. 6.00 News Briefing: Weather. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Prayer for the Day.
6.30 Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30 News summary. 6.55, 7.55 Weather. 7.25, 8.25 Sport. 7.45 Thought for the Day. 8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.
9.00 News.
9.05 Midweek: Libby Purves with studio guests†.
10.00 News; Gardeners' Question Time, from Shropshire.
10.30 Morning Story: 'The Encounter' by Arturo Vivante. Read by Errol MacKinnon.
10.45 Daily Service (New, page 62).
11.00 News; Travel; The Seeker in the Desert. Malcolm Billings presents a portraitt of Joan Louis Burckhardt, one of the world's greatest explorers. Starring Martin Jarvis.
11.48 Mighty Myths. Derek Robinson challenges some beliefs we take for granted. 8: Lawrence of Arabia: Says Who?
12.00 News; You and Yours.
12.27 No Place To Hide by Ted Allbeury. Abridged in eight parts (8) (r). 12.55 Weather.
1.00 The World at One: News.
1.40 The Archers. 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News; Woman's Hour. Including an interview with the cinema historian and silent film "restorer" Kevin Brownlow. Also part six of A Room with a View.
3.00 The Afternoon Play: Don't Worry about Matilda, by Shelagh Delaney. With Gabrielle Lloyd and San Kelly. A brother discovers his sister living in a squalid basement flat. She resists the temptation to move out and go home †.
3.47 Time for Verse. A series of six programmes (3) What Would Have Happened If. . . Presented by Simon Brett.
4.00 News; File on 4. With Paul Martin. Has the management of our big cities broken down in the conflict between their rulers and the Government? (r).
4.40 Story Time: 'Pierre et Jean' by Guy De Maupassant. Abridged in *seven episodes (5). Read by* Michael Pennington.
5.00 PM: News Magazine. 5.50 *Shipping. 5.55 Weather.*
6.00 The Six O'Clock News.
6.30 Top of the Form. Second Round. (12:) *North 2 v South. City of* Leeds School v Bay House School, Alverstoke, Gosport.
7.00 News.
7.05 The Archers.
7.20 Checkpoint. Listeners' cases of unfair dealings and injustice. With Roger Cook.
7.45 The Reith Lectures 1984. 'Minds, Brains and Science' – six talks by Professor John Searle, Professor of Philosophy, University of California, Berkeley. (4) A walk to Patagonia.
8.15 In Business.
8.45 Analysis: Mr Chernenko's Russia. Michael Charlton chairs a discussion.
9.30 A Talent to Amuse. The life and music of Noel Coward, 11: Noel As Others Sang Him. With Sheridan Morley.
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Includes comment on the Art of the Architect exhibition at RIBA.
10.15 A Book at Bedtime: 'Mr Facey Romford's Hounds' by R. S. Surtees. 3: *Gone Away.* Read by John Franklyn-Robbins.
10.30 The World Tonight, including *11.00 News Headlines.*
11.15 The Financial World Tonight.
11.30 Today in Parliament.
12.00 News; Weather. 12.33 Shipping Forecast.
VHF (available in England and S. Wales only). *5.55-6.00am* Weather: Travel. 11.0-12.00For Schools: 11.00 Singing Together (1$). *11.20 Junior Drama* Workshop. 11.40 Contact. 11.55 Songs from Something to Think *About (10). 1.55-3.00pm* For Schools: 1.55 Listening Corner. 2.05 Something to Think About. *2.15 Quest. 2.35 Pictures in Your* Mind (Poetry. 2.45 Nature. 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-11.30 Study on 4: A Vous La France! (8) Faites votre choix. 12.30-1.10am Schools Night-Time Broadcasting.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather. 7.00 News.
7.05 Your Midweek Choice: Mozart's Notturno for four orchestras, K 286; (Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood); Paolo Quagliati's Three arias from La sfera armoniosa (Oslo Consort); Saint-Saens's Piano Concerto No 4 *(Cortot/Orchestra conducted by* Munch)†. 8.00 News.
8.05 Midweek Choice: (cont.): Bach's *Fugue in G minor, BWV 578* (Marie-Claire Alain, organ); Rachmaninov's Symphony No 1 *(LSO under Previn)†. 9.00 News.*
9.05 This Week's Composer: Lassus. Excerpts from Lagrime di San *Pietro (Consort of Musicke),* and Domine exaudi orationem meam (Penitential Psalm No 7), by London Lassus Ensemble: also Stabat Mater (Westminster Cathedral Choir)†.
10.00 Delius Concertos: RPO under Beecham play the Grieg Concert overture In Autumn; and Delius's Piano Concerto (Moiseiwitsch and Philharmonia Orchestra)†.
10.35 Theme and Variations: Mozart's Sonata in E flat, K 481; and Barlow's Theme and Variations. Trevor Williams (violin) and Hubert Dawkes (piano)†.
11.10 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra (under Downes). Mendelssohn's overture Ruy Blas; Beethoven's Symphony *No 3*†.
12.15 Concert Hall: Patricia Rozario (soprano), and Mark Troop *(piano). Schubert's Ellen's three* songs; works by Fauré (Four Songs with texts by Verlaine) and by Granados (Amor y odio etc)†. 1.00 News.
1.05 Benny Goodman: recordings that include Peggy Lee and Mel Powell. In mono.
1.30 Matinee Musicale: Recordings by various orchestras, of Eric Coates's overture The Merrymakers; Wolf's Italian Serenade; John Addison's ballet suite Carte blanche; Franz Waxman's Creation of the Female Monster (Bride of *Frankenstein); Gershwin's* Lullaby; and Hermann's Welles raises Caine†.
2.30 Scottish Season: Fiona Dobie (soprano), Neil Mackie (tenor), Glyn Davenport (baritone) and Roger Vignoles (piano). Songs and duets by Schumann, Franz, Loewe and Brahms, based on Scots poetry†.
3.30 Brahms and Chopin: Vienna Philharmonic (under Bernstein) play Brahms's Tragic Overture; Philharmonia (under Marriner) with Misha Dichter (piano) play Chopin's Fantasy on Polish Airs†.
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Guildford Cathedral – live†. 4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for pleasure: another of Roy Williamsons's selections†.
6.30 Debut: Krzysztof Smietana (violin) with John Blakely (piano). Brahms's Sonata No 3 in D minor Op 108; Kreisler's Caprice viennois†.
7.00 Scottish Season: Macbeth, by Shakespeare. With Denis Quilley and Hannah Gordon as Macbeth *and* Lady Macbeth. Cast also includes Clifford Rose, John Rowe, Nigel Terry and Stuart Organ. (See Choice).
9.10 BBC Singers: with John Wallace (trumpet). Works by Kodaly, Szollosy, and Ligeti†.
9.35 Six Continents: Foreign radio broadcasts, monitored by the BBC, and presented by Ian McDougall.
10.00 Ferdinand *Ries:* Harpist Sioned Williams, with pianists Leslie Howard and John Bingham play the Introduction and Rondo, for harp and piano, Op 57; Polonaise for piano duet, Op 93; and Grand Trio for harp and two pianos, Op 95. All three works are getting their first broadcast in this country†.
10.45 Ladies Lost and Found: Martin *Jarvis, as Chaucer, in more* pages from The Book of the Duchess and The House of *Fame,* in Terence Tiller's *new* version of the Chaucer works. Music by Michael Berkeley†.
11.00 Salomon String Quartet: Haydn's String Quartet in A Op 55 No 1; Quartet in E flat, Op 71 No 3†.
11.57 News. Until 12.00.
MF (medium wave). As vhf above, except 7.05-11.00am CRICKET: FIRST TEST. India v England from Bombay – the afternoon session of the first day's play.

Radio 2

On medium wave. † denotes also VHF *stereo.*
News on the hour (except 9.00pm). Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. 4.00am Colin Berry. † including 5.02 Cricket. 5.30 Ray Moore. † 6.02 Cricket. 7.30 Terry Wogan. † including 8.31 Racing. 9.02 Cricket. 10.00 Russell Harty † including 10.02, 11.02 Cricket. 12.00pm Steve Jones † including 12.02 Cricket. 1.05 Sports Desk. 2.00 Gloria Hunniford † including 4.02, 5.05 Sports Desk. 3.30 Music All The Way. 4.00 David Hamilton. 6.00 John Dunn † including 6.02 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sport and Classified Results (MF only). 8.00 European Soccer Special. Three British *clubs (Spurs, Dundee United and* Manchester United) embark on third-round first-leg matches in the UEFA Cup. Second-half commentary on one match and news on the other two. 9.30 Listen to the Band with Charlie Chester (continued from VHF). 10.00 The Golden Years. Presented by Alan Keith. 10.30 Hubert Gregg says Thanks for the Memory. 11.00 Brian Matthew presents Round Midnight. (Stereo from midnight) 1.00am Nightride. † 3.00 Broadway Babes (13) Celeste Holm and Lauren Bacall. † 3.30-4.00 Vernon and Maryetta Midgley. †

Radio 1

On medium wave. † denotes also VHF stereo.
News on the half hour from 6.30am until 9.30pm and at 12 midnight. 6.00am Adrian John. 7.00 Mike Read. 9.00 Simon Bates including McCarthy the Movie-Maker. 12.00pm Gary Davies including 12.30 Newsbeat. 2.30 Steve Wright. 5.00 Bruno Brookes including 5.30 Newsbeat. 7.30 Janice Long 10.00-12.00am John *Peel. † VHF Radios 1 and* 2 4.00am With Radio 2 8.00pm The Spinners and Friends 8.30 Frank Chacksfield and his orchestra. 9.15 Listen to the Band with Charlie Chester. 9.30 As Radio 2 10.00 With Radio 1 *12.00-4.00am With Radio 2.*

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk. 7.00 World News. 7.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.30 Report On Religion. 7.45 That's Trad. 8.00 World News. 8.09 Reflections. 8.15 Classical Record Review. 8.30 The First Half Century. 9.00 World News. 9.09 Review of the British Press. 9.15 The World Today. *9.30 Financial News. 9.40 Look* Ahead. 9.45 The Brotherhood Of Brass. 10.00 News Summary. 10.01 Torture. 10.30 My *Music. 11.00 World News. 11.09 News About* Britain. 11.15 Images Of Britain. 12.00 Radio Newsreel. 12.15 Nature Notebook. 12.25 The Farming World. 12.45 Sports Roundup. 1.00 World News. 1.09 Twenty-Four Hours. 1.30 The Ideal Cast. 2.00 Outlook. 2.45 Report on Religion. 3.00 Radio Newsreel. 3.15 Incredible Flautists. 3.30 Steptoe And Son. 4.00 World News. 4.09 Commentary. 4.15 Rock Salad. 4.45 The World Today. 5.00 World News. 5.09 *Monitor.* 8.00 World News. *9.15 Album Time.* 9.45 *Recording* Of The Week. 10.00 World News. 10.09 The World Today. 10.25 Book *Choice.* 10.30 *Financial News.* 10.40 Reflections. 10.45 Sports Roundup. 11.00 World News. 11.09 Commentary. 11.15 Images Of Britain. 11.30 Top Twenty. 12.00 World News. 12.09 *News About Britain.* 12.15 *Radio* Newsreel. 12.30 Steptoe And Son. 1.00 News Summary. 1.00 Outlook. 1.30 Waveguide. 1.40 Book Choice. 1.45 *Monitor.* 2.00 World News. 2.09 Review of the British Press. 2.15 Network UK. 2.30 Assignment. 3.00 World News. 3.09 *News About Britain. 3.15 The World Today.* 3.30 The Spirit Of Kitty Hawk. 4.00 Newsdesk. 4.30 Classical Record Review. 5.45 The World Today.

All times in GMT

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN
† Stereo. ★ Black and white. (r) Repeat

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/247m: VHF -90-92.5; **Radio 4:** 200kHz 1500m: VHF -92-95; **LBC** 1152kHz/261m; *VHF 97.3;* ***Capital:*** *1548Hz/194m: VHF 95.8; **BBC Radio London** 1458kHz/206m:* VHF 94.9; **World Service** MF 648kHz/463m.

BBC1 WALES. 12.57pm-1.00 News of Wales Headlines. 3.48-3.50 News of Wales *Headlines. 5.25-5.35* Interval. 5.35-5.58 Wales Today. 6.30-6.35 Party Political Broadcast (Plaid Cymru). 6.35-6.55 Sportfolio. 12.10am-12.15 News and weather. **Scotland.** 12.57pm-1.00 The Scottish News. 5.25-5.58 First Class. 6.30-6.55 Reporting Scotland. 9.00-9.05 Party Political Broadcast (Scottish Conservative). 12.10am-12.15 News and weather. NORTHERN IRELAND. 12.57pm-1.00 Northern Ireland News. 3.48-3.50 Northern Ireland News. 12.10am-12.15 News and weather. ENGLAND. 6.30pm-6.55 Regional news magazines.

SCOTTISH As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 That's Hollywood. 1.20 News. 1.30 Job Spot. 1.35 Film: Black Swan* (Tyrone Power). 3.00 Survival. 3.30-4.00 Look Who's Talking. 6.00 News and Scotland Today. 10.35 Scotsport. 11.35 Journey to the Unknown. 12.35am Late Call, Closedown.

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 *Three Little* Words. 1.20-1.30 News. 6.00-6.35 About Anglia. 12.05 Danger, Wolves on Set. 12.35 Tuesday Topic, *Closedown.*

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

S4C Starts 1.00pm Countdown. 1.30 Alice. 2.00 Gwrando A Gwneud. 2.20 Ffalabalam. 2.35 *Hyn O Fyd.* 2.55 Interval. 3.00 Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. 4.00 A Plus 4. 4.30 Lubo's World. 4.45 Ffalabalam. 4.55 Hanner Awr Fawr. 5.30 Danger Man. 6.00 Brookside. 6.30 Dibendraw. 7.00 Darllediad Gwleidyddol Ar Ran Plaid Cymru. 7.05 Newyddion Saith. 7.30 Owain Yn Arwain. 8.00 Resio. 8.30 Y Byd Ar Bedwar. 9.00 Film: Wait 'Til Your Mother Gets Home (Paul Michael Glaser). 10.45 Snwcer. 11.15 Diverse Reports. 11.45 Here and Now. 12.15am Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 1.20pm News. 3.00 Adventurer. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 6.00-6.35 Lookaround. 12.05am Closedown.

TYNE TEES *As London except:* 1.20pm News. 1.25 Where the Jobs Are. 1.30-2.30 British *Ice Figure Skating. 6.00 News. 6.02* Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 Northern Life. 12.05am Darts. 12.35 Mission England, *Closedown.*

CENTRAL As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Look *Who's Talking. 1.20 News.* 1.30-2.30 Shillingbury Tales. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25-7.00 News. 12.05am Closedown.

ULSTER As London except: 1.20pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 3.30-4.00 Survival, 6.00-6.35 Good Evening Ulster. 12.05am News, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE *As London except:* 12.30pm-1.00 One Woman. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Falcon Crest. 6.00-6.35 Calendar. 12.05am Portrait of a Legend. 12.35 Closedown.

GRAMPIAN *As London except:* 12.30pm-1.00 Three Little Words. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 We'll Meet Again. *6.00-6.35 North Tonight.* 10.35 Scotsport. 11.35 Streets of San Francisco. 12.35 News, Closedown.

TSW As London except: 12.30-1.00 Three Little Words. 1.20-1.30 *News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun* 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.30-7.00 Secrets of the Coast. 12.05am *Postscript, Closedown.*

GRANADA As London except: 1.20-1.30pm Granada Reports. 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors. 6.00 This is Your Right. 6.05 Crossroads. 6.30-7.00 Granada Reports. 12.05am *Portrait of a Legend.* 12.40 Closedown.

CHANNEL As London except: *12.30pm-1.00* Three Little Words. 1.20-1.30 News. 5.15-5.45 Pruitts of Southampton. 6.00 Channel *Report. 6.30 Crossroads.* 6.55-7.00 Dick Tracy. 10.00-10.05 Jazz. 12.05am Closedown.

TVS As London except: 1.20pm News. 1.32 That's My Dog. 2.02-2.30 Afternoon Club. 3.27-4.00 Take the High Road. 6.00-6.35 Coast to Coast. 12.05am That's Hollywood. 12.35 *Company, Closedown.*

HTV WEST As London except: *12.30pm-1.00* Benson. 1.20 News. 1.30 Protectors. 2.00-2.30 That's My Dog. 6.00-6.35 News. *12.05am Comedy Tonight.* 12.35 Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-6.30 Wales At Six. 6.30-6.35 Party Political Broadcast.

Entertainments

also on page 26

Tory MPs press for a better deal for students

By Anthony Bevins Political Correspondent

Conservative MPs last night stepped up their pressure on Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, for a reversal of Government policy on student grants.

Strong support is expected for a backbench Conservative Commons motion saying that the proposed large increases in parental contributions were misconceived and so severe that some families would find it impossible to make the full contribution.

It is understood that a significant number of ministers and whips, as well as backbench MPs, are now receiving heavy protest mail from Tory supporters about the proposal to increase parental contributions by £39m from the start of the next academic year.

One Tory MP even suggested last night that Mrs Thatcher was beginning to distance herself from the decision in private conversation.

Mr Cranley Onslow, the new chairman of the Conservative backbench 1922 Committee, is said to be disturbed by the change and four members of the 1922 executive were among those who had last night sponsored the critical Commons motion.

Although 58 per cent of students' families will benefit from the new grant arrangements, about 140,000 wealthier families will be worse off and 20 per cent will be asked, for the first time, to make a contribution towards the cost of tuition.

The maximum contribution will be £2,500 for families with one student and £4,000 for two-student families. Sir Keith is due to meet Conservative backbenchers on December 5, and he will be publicly examined about the changes at a meeting of the Commons Select Committee on Education on December 18.

● Thousands of students will converge on London today for a big rally on the South Bank to protest against the Government's student grants proposals (Lucy Hodges writes).

Among the speakers at Queen Elizabeth Hall will be Mr C. A. Giles, a pensioner who wrote to *The Times* last week to say that he felt particularly bitter about having to pay more towards keeping his son in higher education.

Yesterday, art college students occupied the Tate Gallery in protest at the grants decision.

Letters, page 13

US Embassy bomb plot foiled in Rome

Rome (AP) – Italian police said yesterday they had foiled a plot to bomb the United States Embassy in Rome and arrested seven Lebanese members of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization.

The Rome police chief Signor Marcello Monarca, told a news conference that all seven were arrested on Saturday "with irrefutable proof that they planned an attack" against the embassy. He said news of the arrests was delayed because the investigation was still under way.

Police sources had earlier said the attack was to have been carried out by truck-bomb, similar to the suicide bombings against American installations in Beirut.

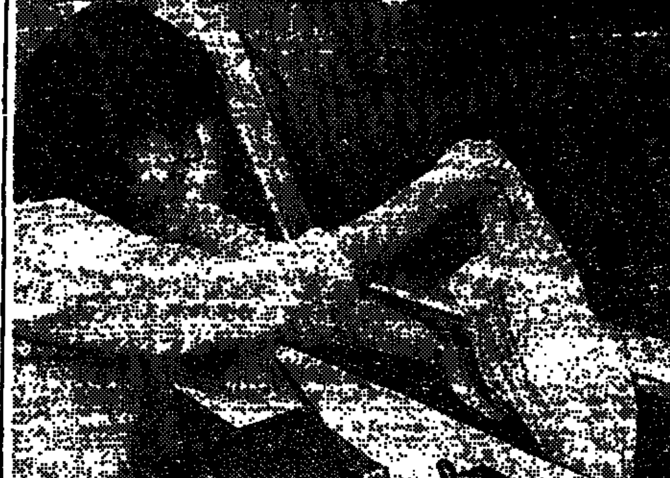
Signor Monarca said the planned attaack was "like in Beirut", but declined to say specifically that it involved a truck-bomb.

He said he had no hard evidence to prove that the seven men belonged to Islamic Jihad, but based his conclusion on documents found on the suspects.

Signor Monarca said they were picked up at Ladispoli, a seaside resort south of Rome. They had a detailed map of the US Embassy on the Via Veneto, with notes on "weak points" of the compound. An eighth man arrested in Zurich on November 18 had been carrying more than 4lb of explosives.

The seventeenth century, four-storey US embassy in Rome us surrounded by tight security, including chains, cement blocks in driveways and special barricades that are designed to keep vehicles from crashing through.





'Hanging fridges' of Middlesex Hospital

The biggest and safest fridge in the world. Middlesex Hospital medical students like Miss Danielle Morris, aged 18 (left) use the chill of the great outdoors to keep butter, milk, and other food cool and safe from their preying neighbours.

The 250 medical students and postgraduates at Astor College in London do have communal fridges. But Dr William Coulson, the college's warden, said: "People do tend to be a bit dishonest about milk for the late night cup of coffee."

The hanging larder, known to explorers in the wild, was the answer, and the local Tesco, whose carrier bags form most of the safe deposits are delighted with the free advertising. (Photographs: Harry Kerr and John Voos).

US Treasury proposes 35% top tax rate

Continued from page 1

done through "draconian" domestic cuts which might involve the elimination of entire agencies.

Mr Reagan made it quite clear that the separate Treasury tax reform plan was not to be used as an "excuse to raise taxes". Officials said it is significant that Mr Reagan, who was briefed privately on the tax reform proposal on Monday, carefully refrained from embracing it.

"This is a Treasury plan which the President will review before making his own decisions on tax reform", a White House official said. Privately, officials said Mr Reagan asked about the political ramifications after some of his aides expressed strong doubts.

For individuals, the popular deduction for mortgage interest costs on the principal residence would be retained but all other interest deductions would be limited generally to a ceiling of £5,000.

Deductions for state and local income and property taxes would be eliminated

In addition, popular corporate and professional deductions for entertainment expenses would be eliminated

Main features of the US tax changes are:

Individual taxes: To be simplified and lowered. Instead of the present 15 individual income tax brackets, ranging between 11 and 50 per cent, there would be only three of 15 per cent, 25 per cent and 35 per cent.

Corporate taxes: The overall rate would be lowered but due to the elimination of tax breaks, the net effect would be a rise in taxes for businesses and corporations.

Benefits to be eliminated: For corporations, the 10 per cent investment tax credit used to offset cost of plant and equipment. For individuals, a wide range of deductions for personal interest costs including those for a second home which would be reduced drastically.

Entertainment expenses: To be eliminated. Deductions for business meals and travel expenses would be curtailed.

To be retained: Deductions for mortgage interest payments on a principal home.

Lords television debate

The entertainers take on the bores

The House of Lords was preoccupied yesterday with reaction shots and cutaways.

Well versed as always in the technicalities of their subject, their lordships were discussing the pros and cons of televising Parliament. More particularly, they were discussing whether to allow their proceedings to be televised for a trial six-month period, as recommended by their own all-party Sound Broadcasting Committee.

Lord Chalfont, in his time a television producer, presenter and writer, could boast more technical expertise than most. He revealed himself to be somewhat suspect on figures, however, when he referred to his 20 years in the House, half in govenment, half in opposition and half on the cross-benches.

The Chalfont thesis was that selective editing, the use effects microphones, cutaways and reaction shots could give a distorted and trivializing view of the House.

He summed up his view by saying: "I would prefer to be a member of a House which is mind-bendingly boring than one which is an extension of political showbusiness".

This more or less divided the House into the bores and the entertainers.

Lord Aberdare stood up to open the debate on behalf of the entertainers, and as he opended his mouth the television lights came on.

"My lords, the cue obviously worked", he declared with some satisfaction, before going on to reassure the House that the camera positions would be unobtrusive and everyone would soon get used to the lighting, which was being tested yesterday, without the cameras.

But even Lord Aberdare clearly did not have any great faith in their lordships' ability to provide great public entertainment. He said he thought the television would soon settle down to televising the Lords only two or three times a month.

As some of the later speakers droned on, it was easy to see why.

Lord Peyton, who was on the side of the bores, expressed the fear that the television cameras might pick out one or two "noble lords who had succumbed to thoughtfulness of weariness" – in other words, who were asleep.

As he spoke, a roving camera would have been able to pick out more than one in just such a state.

But surely their lordships could cope with these sorts of pressures? As Lord Ardwick pointed out, it wasn't as if they had an electorate to worry about.

"We're here for life," he said, and there was an almost audible sigh of relief.

Lord Denning, an entertainer if ever there was one, had no fears about the intrusion if television. He described Lord Chalfont's suggestion that the House should put off any experiment until "the other place" had come to a decision as "a dilatory plea, ostensibly to gain time but in reality to squash the idea altogether".

He believed the public was entitled to enjoy the eloquence of their lordships, and in his own case, he was unquestionably right.

The bores, who wanted the House to remain untelevised and boring, pointed out that radio always picked out Prime Minister's question time, when the House of Commons most resembled a "bear-garden", or "bull-ring". They would no doubt prefer to hear the long, boring bits.

Lord Soames, for the entertainers, suggested that the presence of television cameras wouldn't necessarily make everyone more raucous. He even moderated his own normally booming tones as he said this, but it was not entirely convincing.

The highligh of the afternoon was when Lord Dacre, historian and super-bore, suggested that "our grave and senatorial deliberations cannot compare with the effervescent vitality, the robust and juvenile activities of the other place".

Lady Gaitskell, an engagingly eccentric figure in a round black hat, had been moved to interrupt more than one previous speaker, but had so far done fairly quietly. This was too much for her. "why not?" she cried indignantly.

One wondered whether the television cameraman would have been quick enough to cut away from Lord Dacre to Lady Gaitskell to catch this immaculately timed remark.

Rupert Morris

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh give an evening reception for members of the Diplomatic Corps, Buckingham Palace, 9.30; Princess Margaret also attends.

The Duke of Edinburgh chairs a meeting of the National Federation of Housing Association's inquiry into British Housing, Buckingham Palace, 10.30; and later presides over the first meeting of the Prince Philip Appeal campaign council at Buckingham Palace, 5.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits the League of Remembrance, Great Ormond St, 12; and later dines with the Officers of 600 Squadron at Butchers' Hall, 7.30.

The Prince of Wales chairs a meeting of the Court of the Mary Rose at Brewers Hall, Aldermanbury Sq, EC2, 5.

Princess Anne visits Bradford; arrives Bradford Station, 10; she opens the Pakistan Community Centre, 10.50 and then visits Microvitec, 11.45; she later attends a Schools Music concert at The Great Hall, Bradford University, 1.55.

The Duchess of Gloucester attends the Music for Youth Schools Prom, Royal Albert Hall, London, 6.45.

The Duke of Kent visits Thorn EMI Cable Television, Swindon 11.05; and later visits Logica VTS,2.

The Duchess of Kent opens the World Travel Market 1984; arives at the Grand Hall entrance, Olympia, 10.30.

New exhibitions

Paintings by Michael Joseph Browne; Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyds St, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30; (ends Dec 21).

Pastels by Francesco Clemente; Fruitmarket Gallery, 29 Market St, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (ends Dec 28).

Old Edinburgh Revisited; City Art Centre, 2 Market St, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5; (ends Jan 26).

Exhibitions in progress

William Morris and the Middle Ages: Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Thurs 10 to 9; (ends Dec 8).

Benson and Hedges Photographers and Illustrators Gold Awards; Stills, 105 High St, Edinburgh, Tues to Sat 12.30 to 6; (ends Dec 1).

John Buckler's topographical watercolours; Stafford Art Gallery, The Green, Tues to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 4; (ends Dec 8).

A Distant Prospect: aerial photography; Wakefield Museum, Wood St; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5; (ends Dec 22).

Last chance to see

Trapping the Elusive: works by Patrick Hughes; MacRobert Arts Centre Gallery; University of Stirling; 11 to 5.

Original prints by Molly Bullick; and twentieth century Scottish Paintings; Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh; 9.30 to 5.30.

Music

The Pilgrims' School Concert; Winchester Cathedral, 7.30.

Concert by the Elysian Wind Quartet with Anthony Goldstone (piano); Peterborough Technical College, 7.30.

Concert by Oslo Philharmonic, Portmouth Guildhall, 7.30.

Festival of St Cecilia concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta; Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, 7.30.

Concert by the University New Music Ensemble; Wills Memorial Building, Bristol University, 1.15.

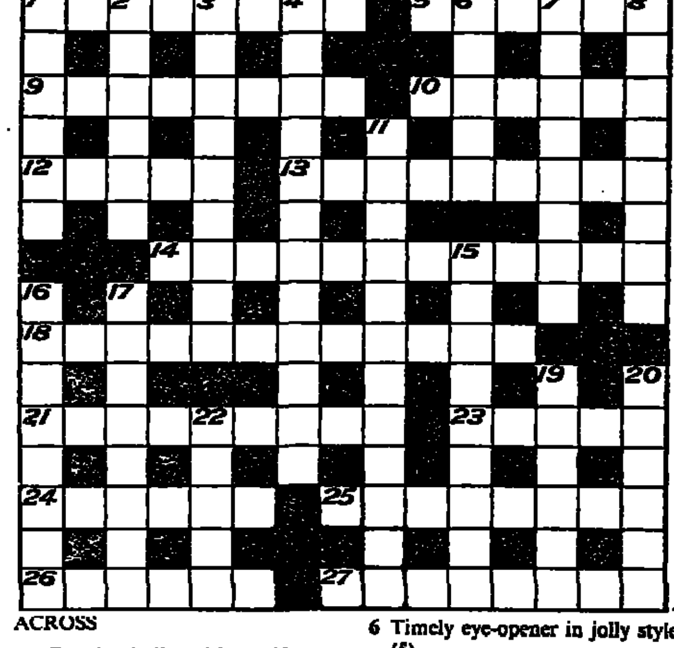
Talks, lectures

Architecture in the public realm by Richard Rogers, Bennett Lecture Theatre 1, Leicester University, 8.

Nineteenth century Women's Sports Wear by Louise Hamer; Laing Art Gallery, Higham Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12.30.

The Lost World of Tibet, by I J Calder; Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers St, Edinburgh,2.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,597



ACROSS

1 Genuine indisposition – if on a bed (4,4).
5 Poet's dreamland intruded upon by one from Porlock (6).
9 Seven involved in a great deal of billing and cooing here (4-4).
10 Smelly one among diplomats managed to come first (6).
12 Put on cast (5).
13 Pilot taking off quickly to give security on the line (9).
14 A dreamy way to heaven in the garden (6,6).
18 A very subdued finale – I see it is said as a complaint (12).
21 Cigars the possible cause of this fire in Germany? (9).
23 Get used to sequence being reversed? That's about it (5).
24 Material feature the zodiac initially supplies (6).
25 Easily led round the motorway to one's home (8).
26 Christopher drinking gin perhaps, one at a time (6).
27 Small boy in Oxford team? Not ready for publication (8).

DOWN

1 Poetic effusion publicizing the dance (6).
2 State of Russian river? Yes (6).
3 Penalized artist over two points – so subtle a distinction (4-5).
4 Tosca's idea is a new way to sever her connexions (12).
6 Timely eye-opener in jolly style (5).
7 A bit of a blow for one about to rise in rank (8).
8 Prepare inadequately for battle with such bowling? (8).
11 Informal cover design's wrong, needs remaking (8-4).
15 Made tart, a champion one on 1 *ac*'s latter half perhaps (9).
16 Jeers at accommodation for soldiers (8).
17 Serpentine river rising concealed one article beneath it (8).
19 In a punt-pole I found it pleasantly odd (6).
20 Saw how to react to a gripping yarn? (6).
22 It puts up people of high degree, leaders of English literature (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,596

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 10

Anniversaries

Births: Jean-Baptiste Lully, composer, Florence, 1632; William Blake, London, 1757; George William Manby, inventor of apparatus for saving life at sea, Denver, Norfolk, 1765; Friedrich Engels, socialist, Barmen, Germany, 1820.

Deaths: Gian Lorenzo Bernini, sculptor, Rome, 1680; Washington Irving, writer, Tarrytown, New York, 1859; Havergal Brian, composer, Shoreham, Sussex, 1972.

New books – hardback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
Britain in Our Century, Images and Controversies, by Arthur Marwick (Thames & Hudson, £12.95).
Conversations with Montgomery, by Antony Brett-James (William Kimber, £8.95).
Impetuous Heart, the Story of Ethel Smyth, by Louise Collis (William Kimber, £11.95).
L'Apres-midi d'un Faune, Vaslav Nijinsky, 1912, by Adolf de Meyer and Jennifer Dunning (Dance Books, £15.95, paperback £9.95).
Marxism, Wars and Revolutions, Essays from Four Decades, by Isaac Deutscher (Verso, £18.50, paperback £6.95).
Rome in Africa, by Susan Raven (Longman, £14.95).
Stubbs' Dogs, by Robert Fountain and Alfred Gates (Ackerman, £14.95).
The New Oxford Companion to Music, two volumes (Oxford, £50).
The Soviet Worker From Lenin to Andropov, edited by Leonard Schapiro and Joseph Godson (Macmillan, £25, paperback £7.95).
Voting Procedures, by Michael Dummett (Oxford, £22.50). PH

The papers

The Daily Express says: "The assassination of Percy Norris, our Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, is a tragic example of worldwide epidemic of terrorism." The paper adds: "Because of the large Sikh element in Britain, some of whom wantonly celebrated Mrs Gandhi's death, there has been rising anti-British feeling in India. So one more nation is added to the list of danger spots."

The Daily Mirror, commenting on heroin abuse, says that "too little is being done". The paper adds: "There are too few customs officers to stop the heroin coming in. There are too few policemen detailed to fight drug trafficking on the streets."

Charity card shops

Charity Christmas cards are now available from the following shops administered by the Charity Christmas Card Council.

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30. Garlick Hill (St James's Church), EC4; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30; closed between 12.45 and 1.45 on Tues and Thurs. Devonshire House, Stratton St, W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 5.30, Thurs 10 to 7. 29/30 Holborn Viaduct, EC4; Mon to Fri 10 to 5. 458 Strand, WC2; Mon to Sat 10 to 6. 100 Tottenham Court Rd, W1; Mon to Sat 10 to 6.

For details of other charity card sales throughout the country, tel: 01-242 0546 and ask for information, or write to the Council, 49 Lamb's Conduit St, London, WC1N 3NG – enclose s.a.e.

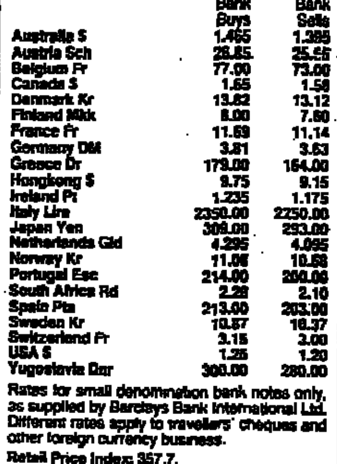
The pound

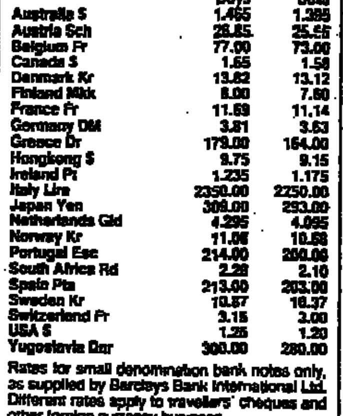
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	1.465	1.385
Austria Sch	26.85	25.55
Belgium Fr	77.00	73.00
Canada $	1.65	1.58
Denmark Kr	13.82	13.12
Finland Mkk	8.00	7.60
France Fr	11.69	11.14
Germany DM	3.81	3.63
Greece Dr	179.00	164.00
Hongkong $	9.75	9.15
Ireland Pt	1.235	1.175
Italy Lira	2350.00	2250.00
Japan Yen	309.00	293.00
Netherlands Gld	4.295	4.095
Norway Kr	11.06	10.58
Portugal Esc	214.00	200.00
South Africa Rd	2.28	2.10
Spain Pta	213.00	203.00
Sweden Kr	10.87	10.37
Switzerland Fr	3.15	3.00
USA $	1.26	1.20
Yugoslavia Dar	300.00	280.00

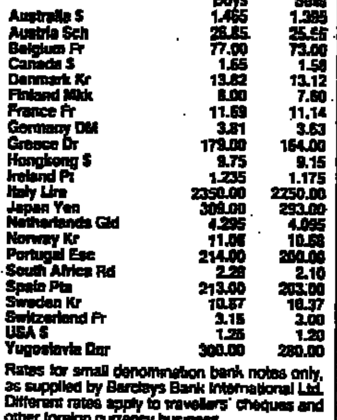
Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

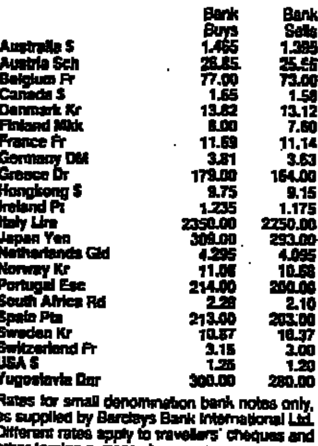
Retail Price Index: 357.7.

London: The *FT* Index closed up 3.2 at 925.3.









Roads

Wales and West: A396: Temporary lights between Bampton and Tiverton, Devon at Bolham. A470: Temporary lights between Builth Wells and Llyswen at Erwood; single file traffic, 24 hours. A30: Roadworks between Exeter and Launceston Rd at Sticklepath.

The Midlands: A45: Temporary signals between Cambridge and St Neots near Caldecote. M6: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junction 3 (Bedworth) and 4 (M42. A426/A427: High Street, Lutterworth closed northbound; local diversion.

The North: A691/A692: Roadworks on the Leadgate bypass, co Durham. A679: Delays expected at Oswaldtwistle, Lancs. A972 Tayside Region: Single lane traffic with lights at Kingsway near A85 junction at Invergowrie.

Scotland: A8 Edinburgh: Width restriction on St Johns Rd at Featherhall Ave. A9: Roadworks and temporary lights at Brora, Sutherland.

Information supplied by the AA.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30) Elections (Northern Ireland) Bill, completion of remaining stages.

Lords (2.30): Debates on the unemployed; production and sale of books, particularly those for schools; and the Ethiopian famine.

Portfolio

Portfolio – how to play

Monday–Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

Add these together to determine your weekly Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

How to claim

Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-53272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches The Times Portfolio Dividend. No claims can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The above instructions are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

● Some Times Portfolio cards include minor misprints in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not invalidated.

● The wording of Rules 2 and 3 has been expanded from earlier versions for clarification purposes. The Game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

Weather forecast

A strong showery SW airstream will cover the British Isles.

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Anglia: Rain soon clearing, sunny intervals and showers developing; wind S veering SW strong; max temp 10C (50F).

Central S, E, central N England, E, W Midlands: Sunny intervals, showers; wind SW strong; max temp 9C (48F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S Wales: Showers, heavy and thundery at times; wind SW strong to gale; max temp 11C (52F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Northern Ireland: Showers, heavy and thundery at times; wind SW strong to gale; max temp 9C (48F).

NE England, Border, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Showers, heavy at times, some sunny intervals; wind SW strong to gale; max temp 8C (46F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Sunny intervals and showers, heavy and thundery in places; temperatures near normal; windy.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind SW strong to severe gale; rain then showers; visibility moderate becoming good; sea very rough. **English Channel (E):** Wind SW strong to gale; showers; visibility good; sea very rough. **St George's Channel, Irish Sea:** Wind SW strong to severe gale; showers; visibility good; sea very rough.

Sun rises: 7.40 am Sun sets: 3.57 pm
Moon rises: 12.47 pm Moon sets: 9.21 pm
First quarter: November 30.

Lighting-up time

London 4.27 pm to 7.11 am
Bristol 4.37 pm to 7.21 am
Edinburgh 4.17 pm to 7.46 am
Manchester 4.26 pm to 7.29 am
Penzance 4.55 pm to 7.27 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

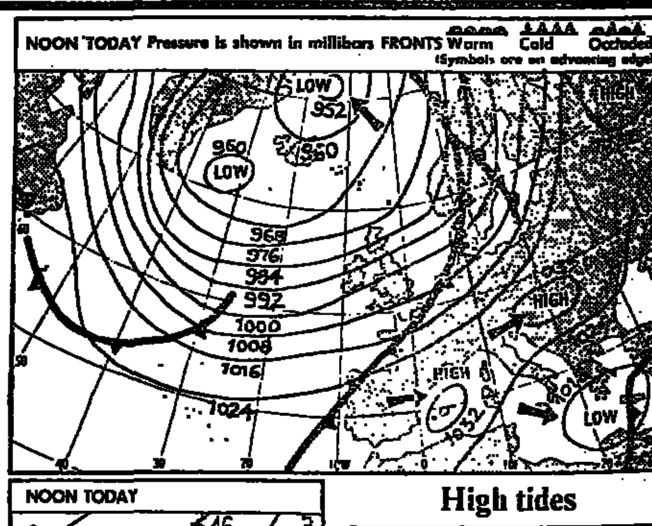
		C	F			C	F
Belfast	r	11	52	Guernsey	f	10	50
Birmingham	c	9	48	Inverness	r	11	52
Blackpool	r	11	52	Jersey	f	10	50
Bristol	f	11	52	London	c	10	50
Cardiff	c	11	52	Manchester	c	10	50
Edinburgh	r	10	50	Newcastle	c	10	50
Glasgow	r	10	50	Ronaldsway	c	11	52

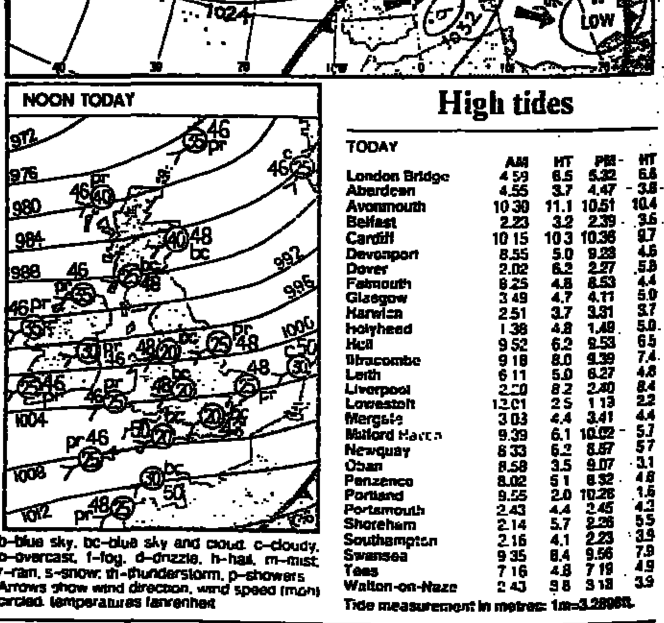
London

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity: 6 pm, 68 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,014.8 millibars
1,000 millibars = 29.53in.

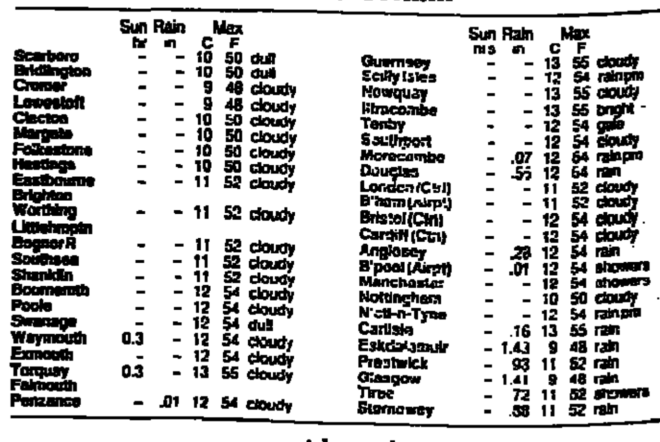
Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Ilfracombe, Colwyn Bay, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Anvil Green, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, 1.43in; highest sunshine: Jersey, 0.8hr.





b–blue sky, bc–blue sky and cloud, c–cloudy, o–overcast, f–fog, d–drizzle, h–hail, m–mist, r–rain, s–snow, th–thunderstorm, p–showers. Arrows show wind direction, wind speed (mph) circled, temperatures fahrenheit



High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	4.59	6.5	5.32	6.8
Aberdeen	4.55	3.7	4.47	3.8
Avonmouth	10.30	11.1	10.51	10.4
Belfast	2.23	3.2	2.39	3.6
Cardiff	10.15	10.3	10.36	9.7
Devonport	8.55	5.0	9.28	4.6
Dover	2.02	6.2	2.27	5.8
Falmouth	8.25	4.8	8.53	4.4
Glasgow	3.49	4.7	4.11	5.0
Harwich	2.51	3.7	3.31	3.7
Holyhead	1.38	4.8	1.49	5.0
Hull	9.52	6.2	9.53	6.5
Ilfracombe	9.18	8.0	9.39	7.4
Leith	6.11	5.0	6.27	4.8
Liverpool	2.20	8.2	2.40	8.4
Lowestoft	12.01	2.5	1.13	2.2
Margate	3.03	4.4	3.41	4.4
Milford Haven	9.39	6.1	10.02	5.7
Newquay	8.33	6.2	8.57	5.7
Oban	8.58	3.5	9.07	3.1
Penzance	8.02	5.1	8.32	4.8
Portland	9.55	2.0	10.26	1.6
Portsmouth	2.43	4.4	2.45	4.2
Shoreham	2.14	5.7	2.26	5.5
Southampton	2.16	4.1	2.23	3.9
Swansea	9.35	8.4	9.56	7.9
Tees	7.16	4.8	7.19	4.9
Walton-on-Naze	2.43	3.8	3.18	3.9

Tide measurement in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

Around Britain

	Sun hr	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	–	–	10	50	dull
Bridlington	–	–	10	50	dull
Cromer	–	–	9	48	cloudy
Lowestoft	–	–	9	48	cloudy
Clacton	–	–	10	50	cloudy
Margate	–	–	10	50	cloudy
Folkestone	–	–	10	50	cloudy
Hastings	–	–	10	50	cloudy
Eastbourne	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Brighton					
Worthing	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Littlehmptn					
Bognor R	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Southsea	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Shanklin	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Boumemth	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Poole	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Swanage	–	–	12	54	dull
Weymouth	0.3	–	12	54	cloudy
Exmouth	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Torquay	0.3	–	13	55	cloudy
Falmouth					
Penzance	–	.01	12	54	cloudy

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Guernsey	–	–	13	55	cloudy
Scilly Isles	–	–	12	54	rainpm
Newquay	–	–	13	55	cloudy
Ilfracombe	–	–	13	55	bright
Tenby	–	–	12	54	gale
Southport	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Morecambe	–	.07	12	54	rainpm
Douglas	–	.55	12	54	rain
London (Ctrl)	–	–	11	52	cloudy
B'ham (Airpt)	–	–	11	52	cloudy
Bristol (Ctrl)	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Cardiff (Ctrl)	–	–	12	54	cloudy
Anglesey	–	.28	12	54	rain
B'pool (Airpt)	–	.01	12	54	showers
Manchester	–	–	12	54	showers
Nottingham	–	–	10	50	cloudy
N'ctl-n-Tyne	–	–	12	54	rainpm
Carlisle	–	.16	13	55	rain
Eskdalemuir	–	1.43	9	48	rain
Prestwick	–	93	11	52	rain
Glasgow	–	1.41	9	48	rain
Tiree	–	72	11	52	showers
Stornoway	–	.58	11	52	rain

Abroad

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	f	16	61	Cologne	s	7	45
Akrotiri	s	21	70	Copenhgn	c	4	39
Alexandria	c	24	75	Corfu	c	18	64
Algiers	s	18	64	Dublin	d	12	54
Amsterdam	f	7	45	Dubrovnik	c	16	61
Athens	f	20	68	Faro	s	19	66
Bahrain	s	26	79	Florence	c	15	59
Barbados*	r	27	81	Frankfurt	f	5	41
Barcelona	s	14	57	Funchal	s	20	68
Beirut	s	22	70	Geneva	s	8	46
Belgrade	r	9	48	Gibraltar	f	16	61
Berlin	f	7	45	Helsinki	s	–8	18
Bermuda*	f	19	66	Hongkong	c	21	70
Biarritz	s	13	55	Innsbruck	f	5	41
Boulogne	c	8	46	Istanbul	f	16	61
Bordeaux	c	7	45	Jeddah			
Brussels	s	8	46	Jo'burg			
Budapest	f	9	48	Karachi*	c	27	81
Buen Aires*	f	25	77	Las Palmas	c	20	68
Cairo	s	23	70	Lisbon	s	14	57
Cape Tn	s	21	70	Locarno	s	15	59
C'blanca	s	18	64	L Angeles*	s	13	55
Chicago	s	17	63	Luxembg	fg	1	34
Ch'church*	s	16	61	Madrid	s	10	50

		C	F			C	F
Majorca	s	15	61	Rome	r	12	54
Malaga	c	18	64	Salzburg	f	6	43
Malta	s	20	68	Sao Paulo*	c	25	77
Melbourne	c	22	72	S Francisco			
Mexico C*	s	20	68	Santiago*	s	31	88
Miami*	s	26	79	Seoul	s	2	36
Milan	s	11	52	Singapore	f	28	82
Montreal*	s	7	45	Stockholm	c	1	34
Moscow	c	–3	27	Strasbourg	s	7	45
Munich	f	5	41	Sydney	s	28	82
Nairobi				Tangier	s	19	66
Naples	f	15	64	Tel Aviv	s	24	75
New Delhi	s	21	70	Tenerife	f	22	72
New York*	s	14	57	Tokyo	s	14	57
Nice	s	17	63	Toronto*	fg	4	39
Oslo	f	–3	27	Tunis	f	18	64
Paris	s	8	46	Valencia	s	15	59
Peking	s	2	35	Vancouver	c	4	39
Perth	f	21	70	Venice	f	12	54
Prague	c	5	41	Vienna	s	8	46
Reykjavik	c	1	34	Warsaw	c	5	41
Rhodes	s	20	68	Washington			
Riyadh	s	25	77	Wellington*	s	19	66
Rio de Jan	c	23	73	Zurich	s	6	43

* denotes Monday's figures are latest available